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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Cuba's Alarcon Discusses Cuban 'Democracy' *[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 1
Latin American Influence on U.S. Policy Viewed *[Havana Radio]* 1
Alarcon Views 'Devastating Effects' of U.S. Blockade *[LE SOIR 30 Aug]* 2
Economic Officials Tour PRC, Vietnam *[Havana Radio]* 3
Meeting With PRC State Counselor *[Havana Radio]* 3
* Union Official Discusses Labor Union Tourism *[BOHEMIA 16 Jul]* 3
Reduction in Blackouts, End to Protests Forseen *[Havana Radio]* 4
Raul Castro Presents Awards to Russian Adviser *[Havana Radio]* 5
'Enormous Efforts' Guarantee School Openings *[Havana TV]* 5
Supplementary Teachers Arrive on Isle of Youth *[Havana Radio]* 5

Haiti

Aristide Officially Swears In Malval in Washington *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Malval Explains Government Program *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Malval's Goals *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
New Cabinet on 2 Sep *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6

MEXICO

PRD Members Release PRI Hostages in Teloloapan *[AFP]* 7
Repatriated Cubans Allowed To Return *[NOTIMEX]* 7
Nayarit Town Claimed Money Laundering Center *[EXCELSIOR 26 Jul]* 7

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Calderon Assails U.S. Policy on Nicaragua *[San Jose Radio]* 8
More Calderon on U.S. Policy *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 8

El Salvador

Interview With Defense Minister Corado *[San Salvador TV]* 8
Assembly Makes Electoral Card Mandatory Document *[San Salvador Radio]* 15
Onusal Chief Comments on Kidnappings, Armed Groups *[San Salvador Radio]* 15

Guatemala

Peasant Group Occupies Supreme Court Building *[Guatemala City TV]* 15
Peasants Demand Resignations *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 15
'Political War' Between State Branches Intensifies *[AFP]* 16
DCG Ends Resistance, Accepts Purge of Congress *[AFP]* 16
PAC Members Capture EGP Commander *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 17

Honduras

Joint U.S.-Honduran Military Exercise Ends *[LA TRIBUNA 30 Aug]* 17

Nicaragua

Chamorro Invites UNO, FSLN to National Dialogue *[Managua Radio]* 18
UNO Refuses To Attend *[Panama City ACAN]* 18
Daniel Ortega Asks Government for 'Economic Truce' *[AFP]* 19
Sandinists Say Cerna Remains Intelligence Chief *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 27 Aug]* 19

SOUTH AMERICA

Bolivia

Antelo Prevents Armed Clash on Brazilian Border *[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 20

Brazil

'General Campaign' by U.S. Media Against Brazil Claimed
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 28 Aug] 20
Venezuelan Fishing Boat Seized Off Amapa Coast *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 20
Army Minister Interviewed on State of Military *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 27 Aug]* 21

Colombia

Nicaragua's Ortega on Talks With FARC in Cuba *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 23
Foreign Minister Meets With Venezuelan Counterpart *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 23
Defense Minister Rules Out Talks With Rebels *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 24
Rebel Financial Centers in Big Cities Claimed *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 24

Paraguay

Opposition Independent Leader Meets With Wasmosy *[ABC COLOR 28 Aug]* 24
Wasmosy Administration Said 'Heading for Failure' *[NOTICIAS 29 Aug]* 25

Venezuela

Foreign Minister on Coup Rumors *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 26
Oil Corporation Board Member on Proven Reserves *[EL GLOBO 25 Aug]* 27

Cuba

Cuba's Alarcon Discusses Cuban 'Democracy'

PY2808193793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1347 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Aug (NA)—Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban National Assembly [of the People's Government], today emphasized that in his country "the people exercise democracy practically and not formally." He stressed that he does not share the attitude of "some Argentine personalities who always want to direct others on how to organize things."

Thus, the third man in the Cuban Government's succession line rejected remarks made by President Menem who on various occasions has stressed that in Cuba there is a dictatorship under the rule of Fidel Castro.

The Cuban political leader said: "There is a genuine, legitimate, and real exercise by the people."

Alarcon indicated that the relations between the two countries "are normal at many levels." Nevertheless, he admitted: "Sometimes there have been remarks by some Argentine personalities. We preferred not to comment on them and not to enter into any controversies because we are sure that they do not reflect the relationship existing between the two nations."

Before noting that "in Cuba there is a democracy, because there is a system in which the people actually exercise authority," the Cuban Government official said: "Democracy is not a product of the consumer society."

In remarks to a radio station, Alarcon said that Cuba will not follow the path of the East [European] countries. After saying that "more than three years have passed since those explosions occurred," Alarcon noted: "Those who expect such a thing to happen [in Cuba] will die of old age waiting."

Alarcon emphasized: "It would have been an explosion if there had been a system in which the price of the crisis would be shouldered by a majority, but this is not our case because our national policy is always based on fraternity."

Alarcon added that the Cuban people "know that resistance is the only way to face our problems."

Alarcon is visiting this capital to hold a number of meetings with Argentine politicians like the one he held on 26 August with PJ [Justicialist Party] President Ruben Marin.

Moving on, Alarcon recommended that Argentine Government officials not waste their time establishing contacts with the anti-Castroists. He pointed out: "Instead of talking with individuals who are simply used by a foreign power, I would talk directly with the U.S. Government."

Latin American Influence on U.S. Policy Viewed

PA3108005393 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Guillermo Alvarado Commentary]

[Text] Cuba has always given priority to Latin American and Caribbean countries in its foreign policy. During the almost 35 years of the Cuban revolutionary process, however, relations with our neighbors have been affected by the presence of a third party—the United States—as a result of its hegemonic control over the hemisphere.

On many occasions, and more or less depending on who has been occupying the White House, the options and prospects of Latin American nations have been subject to the priorities defined by each U.S. Administration. Relations have developed within a controversial atmosphere and have gradually, but steadily, increased.

We must note that the process of reinserting Cuba into the regional community began much earlier than the recent international changes which have led to the disappearance of the Soviet Union and the socialist European system. [three-second break in reception] Latin America, despite its different perception, has been capable of taking a step toward Cuba, a step the United States has not accepted, defending the logic of trying to find solutions to contradictions within a process of rapprochement rather than isolation.

As in all aspects of our national life, Cuban foreign policy has made significant changes in its priorities and objectives in two major areas: defense of national sovereignty before U.S. hegemony, and the consolidation of Latin American identity in current political plans. Regarding the latter, the most recalcitrant enemies of the Cuban political process have tried to see in this decision opportunistic intentions from our country to seek an alternative for the loss of our former European allies. Nevertheless, most Latin American politicians and many Latin American and Caribbean governments have said there are no longer any difficulties in reaching an understanding with Cuba on traditional contentious subjects and clearly understand the constructive position assumed by Cuba on problems of common interest, such as Central America and Cuba's eventual return to the OAS.

In the economic field, the Cuban Government has assumed a more flexible position toward Latin America to facilitate its entrance into the regional integration process. This matter is of great priority for Latin American and Caribbean countries in view of the restructuring of economic blocs in Europe and Asia. In this sense, Cuba has proposed the implementation of joint ventures in specific areas, such as biotechnology, tourism, the textile industry, and other important economic sectors. It also proposed developing trade based on a barter system.

On the subject of mixed enterprises, Cuba has proposed that in the case of Latin America, unless there is some inconvenience, regional investors can have more than 50 percent of the shares.

It is believed that Cuba's reincorporation into the regional community must necessarily be preceded by an improvement of our country's relations with the United States and that U.S. hegemony imposes limits that imply breaking with the patterns of dependence and subordination established in this continent. It is also known that President Bill Clinton's administration has not yet established an official policy toward Cuba. It would be a mistake, however, to believe that Latin America can do nothing about this, because the protection of a certain level of relations with Cuba is indeed a very important step in resolving the Cuban-U.S. confrontation. This is clear when we see the enormous Latin American interest in participating with Cuba in our country's economic reactivation and in intensifying ties in the areas of public health, education, sports, and culture. This is the option that many governments in the area advocate, because it implies defending their own independence and national sovereignty.

Alarcon Views 'Devastating Effects' of U.S. Blockade

BR3108112193 Brussels LE SOIR in French 30 Aug 93 p 6

[Interview with National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon, by Veronique Kiesel; place and date not given: "On 'Dollarization,' American Blockade, and Human Rights"—first paragraph is LE SOIR introduction]

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, former minister of foreign affairs and currently president of the National Assembly, is one of Cuba's strongmen. He explained the regime's stand on today's major issues, beginning with the legalization of the possession of dollars.

[Alarcon] We wanted to stabilize social life by adapting ourselves to an existing reality. Since people have dollars anyway, they will now be able to use them in our stores, thus allowing the government to get hold of foreign currencies that it so dearly needs. In addition, this will allow us to shrink the black market: People will no longer have to resort to the black market because they can buy everything officially.

[Kiesel] However, there is no question of opening up the economy further by allowing small enterprises or authorizing open markets for peasants, something which is already happening underground.

[Alarcon] We cannot officialize everything done on the black market. The black market exists because there are gaps; that is what we must fix. In the 1980's, open markets for peasants were authorized. The result was that certain peasants, who would sell their products to people who had the means to buy them, became absurdly wealthy. We prefer to increase the productivity of agricultural enterprises while at the same time developing local production and distribution.

[Kiesel] In light of the current difficulties, does the regime fear any revolutionary movements?

[Alarcon] There will not be a social rebellion. There might be one if there was inequality, but we are all hard hit by the same shortages. In this type of crisis situation there are two solutions: either use the law of supply and demand while penalizing the very poorest, which is what happens in capitalist countries; or organize the market without sacrificing anyone by spreading wealth among everyone.

[Kiesel] But the legalization of the dollar is going to create inequalities between those who have them and those who do not.

[Alarcon] There will indeed be certain problems but I think that the people will understand. Some people will use their dollars to buy personal goods. In the end, however, everyone will benefit because the money will go to the government.

[Kiesel] Obviously the U.S. blockade is not helping to resolve the current crisis.

[Alarcon] For the 30 years that it has been applied, the U.S. blockade has had devastating effects on our economy. As long as we could trade with our partners in Eastern Europe, we were able to manage the crisis without too much damage. Today, however, we are confronted with a twofold difficulty: Our agreements with the USSR and its neighbors have disappeared but the U.S. blockade is still there. It has even been reinforced, since Washington wants to use the Torelli Act to force the rest of the world to blockade us, too. During the Cold War, the embargo had a certain logic between enemies, but now..."

[Kiesel] What are the conditions now demanded by the United States for lifting the embargo?

[Alarcon] That is a question that will make life difficult for future historians, because the conditions are constantly changing. In reality, the United States wants the Cuban Government to be overthrown. As for their demand for a multiparty system, the United States did not always get that when it supported coups in Latin America that installed dictators in the ruins of a liberal democracy.

[Kiesel] However, Washington is asking that human rights be respected. How many political prisoners are there in Cuban prisons?

[Alarcon] In Cuba there are people in prison because they have broken Cuban laws. Some people, who were backed by foreign powers, were imprisoned for political reasons. We are not the only country to do this. Just take a look at the Amnesty International report; almost every country is listed in it. As for us, we are particularly

threatened. We have to defend ourselves: The other countries have not been blockaded for 30 years, nor has part of their territory been occupied by an enemy country that has set up a military base there.

Economic Officials Tour PRC, Vietnam

PA2708193293 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Aug 93

[From the "Evening Information Review" program]

[Text] Cuban economic experts have made contact with Chinese and Vietnamese experiences.

The Cuban economy is hoping to adapt itself to the world's reality, which is characterized by the unfair international economic order. Among other inequalities, Cuba is contemplating the reduction in prices of raw materials, as opposed to the increase in consumer goods prices and technologies sold by rich countries.

This unfavorable context is not the only adverse element Cuba must face, because the consequences of the collapse of the socialist field, with which the island maintained mutually beneficial commercial ties, should be added.

Cuban specialists are studying solutions to the economic crisis. As part of that process, the legalization of possession of foreign currency has already been implemented.

Jose Luis Rodriguez, new minister president of the State Committee for Finance, recently explained that significant changes will be made in the perception of the Cuban economy, through a series of decisions still under consideration. To assess other experiences and learn useful things from them, Rodriguez traveled to Vietnam, where reforms were introduced without renouncing socialism.

Vietnamese authorities have initiated transformations they deemed timely according to their peculiarities and specific objectives, which do not have to agree necessarily with those of Cuba. Despite this, it is very valuable to study the methods of the Vietnamese, according to Cuban Finance Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez. Hanoi has placed emphasis on foreign investments to improve the prevailing situation, affected by underdevelopment and the consequences of two wars.

While Jose Luis Rodriguez visited Vietnam, Arturo Guzman, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Prices, did tour the PRC seeking to appreciate the work of agricultural and industrial enterprises and meet with planning and agriculture officials. If indeed the Cuban economy cannot be compared to that of the PRC, which is very different due to population differences, the advancement of the Chinese economy in the last few years should also be taken into account.

At the end of their studies, Cuban specialists will outline their own path, making the best use of their creative and critical ability and without abandoning the main accomplishments made all these years and the aspirations for the future.

Meeting With PRC State Counselor

FL2808164393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1632 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] In Beijing on 28 August, Chinese State Counselor Chen Junsheng met with Arturo Guzman Pascual, president of the State Committee for Prices, who is on a work visit to the PRC. Sources from the Cuban delegation told PRENSA LATINA that during the meeting, which was conducted in an atmosphere of comradery, Chen explained to Guzman many opinions and information regarding the principles of the economic reform launched 15 years ago in the PRC. The sources added that Chen Junsheng specifically asked Guzman to relay his greetings to Cuban President Fidel Castro for whom—he said—he feels great admiration and respect.

Guzman arrived in Beijing on 8 August and returned there after a tour of over 15 days to the provinces of Hunan, Anhui, Jiangsu, and Shandong where he meet with officials at various levels.

* Union Official Discusses Labor Union Tourism

93CA0170B Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 16 Jul 93 pp 33-34

[BOHEMIA interview with Rodolfo Jimenez Polanco, secretary general of the National Union of Commercial and Gastronomy Workers; place and date not given—first three paragraphs are BOHEMIA introduction]

[Text] Cuba is in the limelight: great sun, great beaches, and a revolution that keeps on going when others are collapsing. These are attractive features that are contributing to the development of a sector that is gaining ground on the island: tourism.

In recent times a new term has been coined, "labor union tourism." Behind it are the institutions of the so-called "leisure culture," but there is also a mass organization within the country, the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC).

[BOHEMIA] Politicized tourism?

[Rodolfo Jimenez Polanco, secretary general of the National Union of Commercial and Gastronomy Workers] No, it is not politicized tourism, because it is not a program based on talks and lectures. There is none of that, at least nothing planned ahead of time. The invitation is free. Anyone who wants to come, regardless of their political inclinations, can do so. The idea is to strengthen the bonds of friendship. Now, to a certain extent, there is nothing in the world that does not involve a certain political slant, but that is in no way a method of promoting a doctrine.

[BOHEMIA] It is relatively new in Cuba.

[Polanco] Yes, the first steps began just two years ago, after some meetings we held with foreign trade union leaders.

[BOHEMIA] And I think it first took root during the celebration of 1 May.

[Polanco] Right. Recently, as the situation in the country has grown worse, we have been forced to reduce the number of invitations to our festivities, hence the idea of guests who might defray their own costs, at a lower price.

[BOHEMIA] Does that mean that one must be a worker to take advantage of this kind of tourism?

[Polanco] That is not exactly a requirement, but most are workers. We do not ignore other sectors, such as retirees.

In other countries this is also called social tourism; we do not want to give it that name.

But what we want to do is achieve closer ties with the workers of the world, between their unions and organizations and our own.

This year 1,200 people came, and we had the first one of this type of tourist gathering.

[BOHEMIA] Was it a high-pressure event?

[Polanco] No, 65 people were there, from 25 countries. There was no pressure, because there is a great deal of interest, not only on the part of Latin American organizations, but also on the part of those from the United States, Canada, Spain, and Italy.

We got some basic ideas from the event, not only specific things like lowering the price of the visit, but also in terms of putting together the program. People who come on these trips come to enjoy the sea and the sun, but they also want to know more about the Cuban people and the way they work.

[BOHEMIA] So you think there may be an avalanche of tourists?

[Polanco] No, because the situation in the world, and that of workers, is not good; but there are also those who can come on vacation and are able to afford it.

On the one hand, it is a financial issue, and, on the other hand, it is a question of establishing ties of solidarity. I think this can also be a contribution that Cuban trade unionists can make to break the imperialist blockade.

[BOHEMIA] Is the CTC daunted by this organizational task?

[Polanco] We have encouraged this, because we think it directly affects us. If they want to isolate us, we have to open up new roads.

[BOHEMIA] How are relations with the National Institute of Tourism (INTUR), CUBANACAN, and GAVIOTA—the institutions that handle these matters?

[Polanco] Good. They make the proposals and make their facilities available. They submit them for our consideration and they make contact with the tourism agencies and the trade unions.

[BOHEMIA] What provinces and what facilities are being offered?

[Polanco] Mainly Havana, and within it the Pan American Village for lodging. But there are many other programs that involve other provinces; there are even direct links between countries and territories.

[BOHEMIA] How much cheaper can trade union tourism be?

[Polanco] It depends on the facilities and the season, but it can be 30 to 40 percent of normal prices.

We are also developing tourism focused on events, which has undeniable price advantages. We are on the right track.

Reduction in Blackouts, End to Protests Forseen

PA2808222193 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon from the "Cuban Panorama" program]

[Text] August is drawing to a close in Cuba with a mixture of good news and the ongoing extremely austere Special Peacetime Period. The hot season is not over yet. Irate and sweat-dripping Cubans grumble about temperatures that sometimes go above 35 degrees Celsius.

Until the beginning of this week, as a result of prolonged electricity shutdowns that lasted up to 20 hours a day, there were few ways to fight Cuba's heat. Because Cubans could not use fans, nights became unbearable and, considering the effects of forced sleepless nights, haggard people arrived earlier than usual at bus stops to try to catch one of the few buses still in operation.

The power company has reported that so-called blackouts will be reduced, and, therefore, this week the Cuban people have again started using the extremely necessary fans.

Unjustifiable demonstrations of social indiscipline that erupted this summer in various areas of the capital must vanish along with the conspicuous telephone service interruptions.

In the current setting, food supplies are scarce and are strictly channeled by means of ration cards. This situation has forced housewives to devise menus with little or no seasoning.

Amid the shortages of the special period produced by the crumbling of the socialist bloc, the intensification of the U.S. blockade, and undeniable domestic inefficiency, the Cubans are expecting the implementation of economic measures aimed at lessening the crisis.

The first measure has been imposed already: the legalization of foreign exchange ownership. Other significant changes in the Cuban economy are foreseen, as can be concluded from statements by new Foreign Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez.

Amid the daily wants, Cubans have been told the good news that everything is ready for the initiation of the forthcoming school year. To achieve this, it was necessary to encourage donations of pencils and notebooks.

At the beginning of September, all of the schools in the country will open their doors and tens of thousands of workers will return to their factories and shops following an almost month-long paid vacation forced by power blackouts.

The special period will go on with its mixture of tribulation and expectation.

Raul Castro Presents Awards to Russian Adviser

FL2808155693 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1431 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], presented the Third Degree Che Guevara Order and the Second Class Internationalist Soldier Medal to Lieutenant General (Valeriy Kotin), chief of the group of Russian military advisers in Cuba. According to GRANMA's 28 August article, the high level official threw himself into the job of military cooperation between Russia and Cuba with great seriousness. He fulfilled important tasks such as the withdrawal of the Motorized Independent Infantry Brigade as well as other tasks. GRANMA adds that (Kotin), not only understood the difficulties but helped to solve them as much as he could.

His excellency Russian Ambassador Arnold Kalinin, as well as FAR chiefs and generals attended the ceremony.

'Enormous Efforts' Guarantee School Openings

FL3108014593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] On 1 September all Cuban schools will open their doors to over 2 million students. Given the limitations of the special period, the state has had to make enormous efforts to guarantee that, among other priorities, everything is ready on the first day of classes: to transport and house over 400,000 boarders; and to guarantee lunches at childcare centers, elementary schools, special schools, and others, totaling over 600,000 boarders. This includes a demand of 30 million notebooks and 35 million pencils that are indispensable for the start of the school year. Thus, we have counted on the support of every organization since it is a task that requires the cooperation of the entire society.

Last school year, which has been described as heroic and successful, raised the prestige of our teachers, who will begin the new school year with the same commitment and dedication to the noble job of teaching.

Supplementary Teachers Arrive on Isle of Youth

FL2708190393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1438 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The Isle of Youth teaching contingent that completes the educational force for the school year that begins in September has arrived on the island. It is made up of close to 200 teachers from Pinar del Rio and Havana City. These newly-graduated teachers will make their contribution for three years at pre-school, primary, middle-level general, and technical education centers.

The broad educational program being run on the Isle of Youth includes thousands of foreign scholarship students and has required systematic support of teachers from other provinces. With a view to increasing the number of teachers in the Isle of Pines' schools, another way to satisfy the teaching-force needs of that province is the growing enlistment of young people into teaching careers.

Haiti

Aristide Officially Swears In Malval in Washington

FL3008163693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1530 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Robert Malval has been officially installed [as prime minister] by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide during a ceremony at the Haitian Embassy in Washington.

Malval Explains Government Program

FL3008172193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Interview with Prime Minister-Designate Robert Malval by Metropole correspondent Renois on the "Meeting Program" on 29 August—recorded]

[Text] [Malval] We are not going on a witch hunt. We are going to gradually establish numerous security measures for all. Gradually over the next 10 years we will have to, as the state has the means, help in the implementation of a new economic class in Haiti.

[Renois] Mr. Malval, you have a lot to prove, as you said at the beginning of this interview. As a mulatto, you are not against those like you and as a bourgeois, you must also prove to the people that you are going to work for their welfare. You have promised to do so. How are you going to do this?

[Malval] First of all, we are going to do so by the transparency of our actions. Second, our statement of general policy will provide an idea of the action that we intend to take. Third, we will watch very closely that all

the government's actions, despite the small means that we will have, are aimed at the improvement of the Haitian people's living conditions.

[Renois] Mr. Malval, you are the head of a government that is still in exile. You are going to work for the return of a president who is as much loved as hated. Are you aware of the extent of your task?

[Malval] I am aware of the extent of the task. However, what comforts me is that I have the personal conviction that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1993 has the makings and the vision of a statesman and that he will work on becoming a great reconciler. That is what encourages me to lead this mission. That is why I do not have any fear in leaving power after three months because I know that the president cares about stability. He is concerned about moderation and in leading a state of law by nonviolent ways.

[Renois] You have never worried about his speeches prior to 31 September 1991? They saw him as someone who wanted to provoke a fight of classes, who was speaking in favor of the poor people but apparently against the wealthy. You have never worried about his speeches?

[Malval] I deplored them. I thought at that time that the president did not have the required organization nor the human resources to be in power. In such a case, one always has recourse to some slogans, to rhetoric. Of course, speeches do not serve as a governmental program.

[Renois] Those who were worried or feared for their lives and properties prior to 31 September 1991 have nothing to fear beginning 30 October 1993 or from the date that you are installed as President's Aristide prime minister and close adviser?

[Malval] I can say categorically: no, because the president and I are aware that if we want to lay together the foundations of a state of law, we cannot do it in the framework of violence. We must do it within the scope of dialogue and consultation. It is in this spirit that I accepted to lead this mission.

Malval's Goals

FL3008213993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Robert Malval has been officially installed on this Monday as Haitian prime minister by President Aristide during a ceremony at the Haitian Embassy in Washington.

Today is the inauguration of a new era for our country and our people, asserted Mr. Malval. We have one objective: to restore democracy to Haiti, beginning today. We have one duty: to put an end to human rights violations, beginning today, indicated Malval.

I am happy to begin this new departure with you, answered President Aristide. He [not further identified] hailed the Haitian political movements which have agreed to walk hand-in-hand, and thanked President Bill Clinton for his firm support.

New Cabinet on 2 Sep

FL3008214093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The new government is scheduled to be installed on 2 September in the Salle des Bustes [Bust Room] of the National Palace, according to sources close to Prime Minister Robert Malval. These sources also tell us that the Villa D'Acceuil Accord should accommodate the government. The Villa D'Acceuil premise [as heard] is now occupied by the Electoral Council. The minister of justice upon whom this institution depends, will be in charge of this file.

Prime Minister Malval who was installed by President Aristide today in Washington, is due to return to Port-au-Prince on 31 August to put a final touch on the transition file.

It should be pointed out that several personalities attended the ceremony this morning at the Haitian Embassy in Washington, notably Alexander Watson, U.S. undersecretary of state in charge of inter-American relations; Joao Baena Soares, OAS secretary general; Dante Caputo, UN/OAS special envoy to Haiti; Firmin Jean-Louis, Senate president; Antoine Joseph, president of the Chamber of Deputies; Jesse Jackson, black American leader and former Democratic presidential candidate.

The new Haitian prime minister is due to address the OAS permanent council, which is meeting in special session at OAS headquarters in Washington.

PRD Members Release PRI Hostages in Teloloapan

PA3008152093 Paris AFP in Spanish 1442 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Aug (AFP)—Newspapers reported today that the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) supporters who had been holding hostage eight [number as received] persons in the town of Teloloapan since 26 August, ended their action after negotiations with the Guerrerro State Government.

The members of the center-left PRD had seized the activists of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] at the Teloloapan town hall to demand the release of regional leader Pedro Uriostegui. The imprisoned leader, former mayor of the town and former PRD activist, was arrested in July for illegal possession of weapons, among other charges. He is considered a radical who on one occasion kidnapped several PRD leaders when they disagreed with his methods of political struggle.

During the crisis, a PRD member was killed, allegedly by a Guerrero State policeman.

According to the newspapers, Guerrero Government Secretary Jose Ruben Robles Catalan promised to "review" Uriostegui's case. He obtained the end of the occupation of the Teloloapan municipal building after the authorities threatened to violently dislodge the occupiers.

Repatriated Cubans Allowed To Return

PA3008170193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0234 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The Government Secretariat reported that a group of eight Cubans, who were shipwrecked off the Mexican coast of Quintana Roo 15 days ago, arrived in this capital on board a commercial flight after requesting their entry into Mexico.

A communique indicated that the Cuban Government granted permission for the departure of its nationals once they requested visas to travel to Mexico from the Mexican consular officials in Havana. It added that the authorization granted to the eight Cubans falls under the category of "nonimmigrant visitor" for one year, as established in Paragraph III of Article 42 of the General Law on Population.

The Government Secretariat indicated that "the authorities will ensure that these individuals will live in decent conditions during their stay in our country."

The Cubans who had been repatriated and who are now returning to Mexico are: Hilda Prez Sanchez, Eller Leyva Barrios, Humberto Rivera Valencia, Richar Yudiel Prez, Catalina Gomez Torres, Eglis Leyva Gomez, Eleazar Leyva Gomez, and Llubel Sedam Perez Perez.

Nayarit Town Claimed Money Laundering Center

93wb0058AA Mexico City EXCELSIOR STATES Section in Spanish 26 Jul 93 pp 1, 4

[Article by correspondent Cesar A. Renteria]

[Text] Tepic, Nayarit, 25 July—Mayor Victor Perez Ruiz declared today that the tourist development area of Nuevo Vallarta in the municipality of Bahia de Banderas has become a "money-laundering" center, created by the drug traffic operating on Nayarit's southern coast, and in some of the country's other states.

He claimed that sums of money in the millions from drug producing and distributing rings have been invested in industries such as hotel and restaurant businesses in the aforementioned tourist complex, the largest in the state.

He stressed that one of the leading entrepreneurs is the notorious drug trafficker Joaquin, "El Chapo," Guzman Loera, the "lord and master of the entire municipality of Bahia de Banderas. His power embraced the entire Vallejo sierra and lowlands, where he owned large expanses of land planted with marijuana."

The mayor asserted that the newly opened five-star Hotel Paraiso Radisson was built with money contributed by "El Chapo," through a front man, noting that he is the main stockholder of the property, located in the Nuevo Vallarta complex.

He added that other drug traffickers hold shares in the Puerta del Sol Hotel and other large establishments in the municipality of Bahia de Banderas. He considered it incongruous that this application of funds, "backed and promoted by Celso Humberto Delgado's administration," should have become a "money- laundering" operation involving the proceeds of drug dealing and sales.

He concluded by stating that this might be the reason that Nuevo Vallarta is a leading resort on the national level, offering tourists comforts and luxuries similar to those available in Acapulco, Cancun, and Puerto Escondido.

Costa Rica

Calderon Assails U.S. Policy on Nicaragua

PA3108025693 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Mexico City—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon has blamed the U.S. suspension of aid to Nicaragua, which he considers the poorest country in Latin America, on an imperialist attitude by the United States. The United States has adopted an imperialist attitude toward Nicaragua by withdrawing its aid to the poorest nation in Latin America, President Calderon Fournier asserted during an interview published today by the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR.

Calderon said Nicaragua currently faces a difficult political situation that could be resolved if the parties involved in the conflict join President Violeta Barrios in a dialogue and consultation. The Costa Rican president emphasized that other Latin American countries must urge the developed world to save a nation that gives proof it wants to have a constitutional government.

More Calderon on U.S. Policy

PA3108032193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0057 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] San Jose, 30 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Today, Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon said the United States' policy on Latin America has not only been inaccurate, but it has also helped worsen the situation in Nicaragua. "Unfortunately, many times the United States makes a series of mistakes in Latin America because it does not heed suggestions from Latin Americans," Calderon stated during an improvised news conference at the presidential house. He said this is what the United States has done in Nicaragua's case, "because it failed to pay attention to the Central Americans' suggestions. If it heeded the Central Americans' suggestions, the United States would have a more accurate policy on Nicaragua," where opposing groups released two groups of hostages last week, Calderon emphasized.

The president reasserted that Nicaragua is a concrete case in which the dangers posed by extreme poverty have been worsened by the withdrawal of all kinds of aid from the United States, most recently by the U.S. Senate's decision to suspend aid to Nicaragua. Both the president and the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry have stated President Bill Clinton's Administration has yet to outline a coherent policy on Latin America.

The Costa Rican Government considers it necessary for the United States to not to divorce itself from Latin America, because, "it must understand, quite clearly, that Latin Americans are its natural allies in today's world. The U.S. policy on Nicaragua has evidently been erroneous," Calderon stated on Monday. He said it would be very important for "President Clinton to take into consideration the recommendation made by the area's presidents, who sent him a letter, which was recently approved in El Salvador, to modify his policy on Nicaragua." Calderon said: "Rest assured that, if the United States accepts the Central Americans' recommendations, its foreign policy in the region would be much more accurate."

El Salvador

Interview With Defense Minister Corado

PA3008203993 San Salvador TCS Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Interview with Defense Minister Colonel Humberto Corado Figueroa by Ricardo Chavarria and Gisela Bodewing at the Channel 6 television studios in San Salvador on 25 August on the "Face to Face" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Bodewing] This morning we will talk with Defense Minister Colonel Corado. Welcome and thanks for your participation.

[Corado] Thanks for inviting me to this popular program. I wish to take the opportunity to congratulate the station on the occasion of its sixth anniversary.

[Bodewing] Thanks, Colonel. We have several subjects in mind this morning, but we will start with two events that made the news in the past few days. The first is the kidnapping of Miss Claudia Velasquez, daughter of the 3d Military Detachment commander, Col. Oscar Velasquez, at 2400 on 23 August. What do the Armed Forces think about this kidnapping? What is happening in the country to the extent that small-scale businessmen and now a soldier's daughter have been kidnapped?

[Corado] The situation that has arisen with the kidnappings in the eastern part of the country and now that of Ms. Velasquez is worrisome. The Armed Forces condemn this kidnapping and are doing everything possible to identify the perpetrators of this crime and rescue Ms. Velasquez safe and sound.

[Bodewing] Any idea of who might be perpetrating these actions? Is an investigation being carried out? Are there any clues?

[Corado] According to our reports, Ms. Velasquez was with her brother in the Zona Rosa neighborhood. At midnight, they headed for home. When they were about to get in, they were attacked by several unidentified persons, who took Miss Velasquez with them to an unknown direction and stole her brother's personal belongings. This is the report we have. Security agencies are already conducting an investigation. In the next few hours, we expect to have more information on what really happened and her current situation.

[Chavarria] Has political motivation been ruled out?

[Corado] Regarding these events, not a single hypothesis should be ruled out. Judging from our preliminary

information, the perpetrators were unaware of Ms. Velasquez' true identity. Apparently, the attackers were laying in wait for any person worthy of an attack. In addition, she had recently returned from the United States. She does not usually live here. For this reason, we think she had not been followed and that therefore her abduction was somewhat fortuitous. Anyway, the crime must be repudiated and we believe such acts must never occur in this country if we are to live in harmony and eliminate the crime affecting peace in our country.

[Chavarria] Another incident that took place last week, was the murder of Engineer Oscar Grimaldi, also at night. There are already several versions of this. One is that it was evidently a crime, possibly a robbery or something of the sort. Other versions are that it was even possibly a murder by death squads, or reprisals. Even Shafik Handal [general coordinator of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN] himself mentioned something of the sort and even said they would not ask the respective investigative organizations to investigate because, in the end, nothing is achieved. The other thesis is that the murderers could even be members of the FMLN, as Mr. Grimaldi somehow knew about the logistics, where the weapons were, etc. These are three different positions. As defense minister, what have you been able to investigate or how far have the suppositions regarding this gone?

[Corado] First of all, I would like to say that whatever the nature of these crimes may be, as an armed institution, we totally repudiate and condemn them because we believe that, being this far into the peace process, and with all the advances in the effort to consolidate democracy in our country, no more Salvadorans should die, regardless of their political affiliation or social status. It is a Salvadoran who has died and, therefore, we believe it merits an in-depth investigation and I believe that determining the causes would be very good for society.

The hypothesis and suppositions you have posed are all valid, any of them could be correct, but at this moment we cannot take any of them as true because the investigations are still underway and all we can say right now is that we condemn these deeds and that it is really regrettable that a person should die because of his political beliefs, if this was the reason for Mr. Grimaldi's death.

However, at this time I do not dare issue a final judgment on this affair because we still do not have clear evidence that would allow us to really conclude that it was a political murder or that he was a victim of the crime wave in our country.

[Chavarria] On that specific point, one person has already been affected, on behalf of the FMLN, and another one was affected in some way, a painful way, very painful, in the case of the colonel's daughter.

However, the ANEP [National Association of Private Enterprise] has also said there are many businessmen in the eastern part of the country who are being affected by this scourge. As defense minister, what is your position on the investigations currently being carried out with regard to these facts? What is your position as a public security organization, even though it is no longer your responsibility, but I imagine you do follow up on these kinds of incidents?

Yesterday, we even dedicated a long part of the interview to the topic of crime because we received a number of telephone calls from people insisting on the topic. Crime, crime, we cannot take it anymore. How much longer can this go on?

[Corado] Doubtlessly, the citizens' concern is well founded. We are all concerned about it because crime not only affects us in the moral and physical aspects, but it also undermines the normal coexistence of any civilized society.

As the National Defense Ministry, even though public security is not our primary duty, at a moment of... [pauses] we are an alternative or a complement to the public security corps, the National Police and the National Civilian Police. Logically, we follow these activities very closely and we are in permanent touch with the organizations that are primarily responsible for fighting common crime. We are currently trying to organize, with them, a plan that may complement what is already being done with the Surveillance Plan [Plan Vigilante], so that we can be more effective, especially in those urban areas where crime has been felt more strongly.

[Bodeving] What is this plan? What would a more active participation mean?

[Corado] As an armed institution, if the president so decides, we could establish a larger presence in other, more strife-torn areas, or we could undertake greater efforts in some areas, where the National Police could withdraw to concentrate their resources in the capital city, which is where crime has been particularly felt, so that they, by disregarding some of their responsibilities in the interior of the country, may really concentrate greater efforts here in the capital, where the effects of crime have been felt more.

Also, we could put greater logistical resources at their disposal, and this could have a really big effect on the struggle against crime.

We are still drafting this plan, but, basically, it is about reinforcing the police corps with more troops and a number of other alternatives so that the National Police and the National Civilian Police may really be more effective in the struggle against crime.

I believe that the activities carried yesterday out by the UEA [Drug Interdiction Executive Unit] could really be the beginning of the struggle against crime here in the capital.

[Chavarria] [Words indistinct] Mr. Minister, with other organizations. For instance, someone told us that what

the UEA did on Friday: approximately 29 persons were captured, but in the end, only one remained under arrest. The other 28 were set free.

[Corado] Of course, the struggle against crime, as the president correctly explained yesterday, is a global phenomenon that we must really attack with all the available means, not only those of the government, but also those of the Salvadoran State in general. Therefore, it is very important to have the participation and joint work of the commission against crime so that the efforts of one institution will not be frustrated by the, maybe, inefficient actions of another sector of the same State.

I believe that what you have posed is really one of the main concerns because, that way, we really cannot suppress crime because the law sometimes allow criminals to have some sort of protection.

However, I believe we must focus the problem in a more overall manner and try to also attack the causes. We must try to investigate, in a sociological manner, what is happening to minors, who are abandoned in the streets, orphans, who could be gathered in an assistance center or a center for the welfare of minors maybe, where they could really remake their lives and become useful citizens, as they are the seed of the future or the future criminal.

I really believe this is more complex than we can see at the moment and I believe that this is the way we must really focus the struggle against crime.

[Bodewing] One last question on this topic. This plan you are preparing and which you will submit for President Cristiani's consideration, when will it be ready and, if the president considers it suitable, when would it go into effect in the country?

[Corado] To tell you the truth, we make plans on a short term. We have been working on this for several days already. I believe the plan should be ready by the weekend at the latest. We hope to discuss it with the president, logically, with the different institutions involved besides the National Police, the National Civilian Police, and the Army; even private enterprises have a very direct participation in this effort because they are also very concerned and have some very good ideas as to how to contribute to an efficient struggle against crime.

I believe that it should be ready very soon as this cannot wait too long because the events are taking place on a daily basis and I believe the responsibility of trying to struggle against it belongs to all of us.

[Chavarria] After the last delivery of weapons by the FMLN, you said there were 800 armed men.

[Corado] Yes. I pointed out the fact that, according to our reports, throughout the national territory there are approximately 800 mobilized men. This number is not exact, but there are about 800.

Their needs may change, they may vary in sources; we have not been able to establish them exactly, we cannot determine them clearly. We can deduce them and the conclusion we have reached is that there may be members from different sectors who refuse to integrate into society. Some because they disagree with what was signed in Chapultepec and others possibly because their criminal nature drives them to remain in that activity against society.

But, anyway, they are a potential threat to society and I believe we should struggle against them in due time, because they are outlaws, as the FMLN has already declared itself political party and, thus, all those who declare themselves in revelry, aside from this political institution, the Salvadoran State has the right to fight them; and if they are common criminals, more so.

[Chavarria] Does this mean that former Armed Forces members and former guerrillas are acting together to perpetrate crimes?

[Corado] I cannot say so definitely. I must admit, however, that in the past we have captured former Armed Forces members, who were found guilty of criminal actions. We have our own mechanisms to try these people. Whenever we determine they are really involved in crimes, we not only reveal their activities, but turn them over to the administration of justice to be dealt with according to the law.

[Bodewing] Are these armed groups you referred to a couple of days ago active throughout the country or are they concentrated in specific areas?

[Corado] The areas where they are active nearly coincide with the areas where the FMLN used to operate. I have mentioned this on several occasions and will repeat it now. The places of greater concentration are Guazapa, San Salvador volcano, and Chalatenango. There are also small groups in Santa Ana volcano, San Vicente, south of Usulutan, and north of Morazan.

[Bodewing] If it is certain that there are armed people in these areas, will operations against them be carried out?

[Corado] No decision has yet been made on that. But, because they are common criminals, they cannot be treated politically and, therefore, are temporarily out of reach of the Armed Forces. Should a political decision be made to take action against them, the National Civilian Police would probably be the first to conduct some type of punitive operation. We could also combat them provided we have the president of the Republic's order.

[Chavarria] Are these persons the same ones that Dr. Waldo Salgado linked to the FMLN in the conversations we had with him?

[Corado] Maybe, but I could not say for sure. When I say something, it is because I have used reports from various sources and which have been properly assessed and incorporated, then we reach a conclusion on whether or not these groups are common criminals or of a political

nature. We are still studying the situation. Dr. Salgado might be or might not be right. May I repeat that these individuals are active around several villages and areas in the country.

[Chavarria] Maybe the arms subject, on which we have focused so much of our attention, becomes very current due to the events in Nicaragua. Somehow the Nicaraguan people attained peace when the elections were held. Contras, recontras, Sandinists, and anti-Sandinists somehow surrendered their arms, but sufficient care was not taken to preclude fresh outbreaks of violence. Consequently, Nicaragua has been experiencing criminal actions in the past three or four months, which we, the Salvadoran people, would not like to experience. The people are still concerned about some things, however, like the possibility of finding more arms caches in Nicaragua. Arms traffic through Panama has also been mentioned and Vice President Francisco Merino has spoken of arms in Guatemala. Dr. Salgado has spoken about arms caches in El Salvador.

[Corado] There has been an attempt to establish a certain parallel between the situation in Nicaragua and that in El Salvador. I think the two situations are similar, but very unique to themselves. For instance, in Nicaragua the process was not as complete as the peace agreement in El Salvador. Without calling it perfect, this agreement represents an effort to embody all of the various factors that ensured the process was one of nonreturn. The Salvadoran process is regarded as an example to the world because of the manner in which the cessation of the armed confrontation was handled and abided by. I think all of those factors have gradually consolidated the process; formerly armed men have joined a political party, which is already acting within the law. It is the duty of both their old comrades and ourselves to attack these remaining groups because they threaten the Salvadoran people. We cannot deny there might still exist some arms outside the country or in this country, which belonged to the FMLN in the past or which could have remained concealed.

[Bodewing] But there is no specific evidence.

[Corado] We do not have specific evidence so far. We have not yet found a sufficient number of arms to say we are dealing with new arms caches in the country.

Another important aspect in the parallel established with Nicaragua is that the Sandinist Peoples' Army [EPS] is really a revolutionary army. It stemmed from a leftist, revolutionary movement that assumed power through the armed path. The EPS is a military institution that is revolutionary in nature and that attempts to impose its ideology. It attempts to institutionalize the ideology is what got them into power in Nicaragua.

This is something that did not happen in El Salvador. In El Salvador, we have professional Armed Forces, which were born with the Republic. Our armed institution is hierarchical, subordinated to political power, disciplined, better organized, and one that encompasses all the characteristics of a professional armed force. We have technical competence and depend on our country's political power: the legally constituted government. We are part of the state and have institutional and cooperative esprit de corps. We recognize our virtues and defects and try to correct the latter. We are a permanent state institution. Furthermore, we obey ethical codes that allow us to maintain a conduct that is more professional and that agrees with our nation's needs and interest. Thus, we do have basic differences that allow us to state, although we do not reject it entirely because it is impossible to reject any possibility, that the Salvadoran Armed Forces situation is very different from the Nicaraguan situation.

[Chavarria] Regarding the possibility that weapons could be found in our country, the Salvadoran people continue, contrary to the President's statement that he trusts all the weapons have been surrendered, to view the arms situation with distrust.

Furthermore, and as we mentioned yesterday, the FMLN stated that the Armed Forces confiscated many weapons from them and that those are the ones that continue to be used in criminal actions. The FMLN has also noted that the responsibility for collecting those weapons rests on the Armed Forces. Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] and the government have already certified that the Armed Forces have collected all the weapons. Onusal, however, has lost some credibility because it also certified that the FMLN had surrendered all its weapons in December and now has stated again that the weapons [words indistinct] been surrendered. Thus, Onusal's certification is no guarantee that the Armed Forces have collected all the weapons of the institution's exclusive use; at least in the eyes of many Salvadoran people. That is why people continue to insist on the possibility that more weapons be collected. Have you continued to collect weapons or is what you reported and Onusal certified satisfactory?

[Corado] No. You are asking me for a personal opinion on Onusal and I believe we all have to make an effort on this matter. An agreement or a certification is possibly not such a valid document. In our case, however, I can tell you that the weapons seized from the FMLN in combat or as a result of the past internal conflict are all properly accounted for and under the armed institution's control. They are part of the Armed Forces weapons inventory.

[Bodewing] Were there also some functional weapons and did the Armed Forces use them?

[Corado] Yes, there were a good number of weapons in good condition and which were assigned to our military units. They, however, are duly accounted for and we can distinguish between our own inventory and the weapons seized from the FMLN. We know the location of those weapons at all times.

I must say that I truly believe there are too many weapons floating around in the country. All those

weapons, however, did not come from the Armed Forces stockpile. It was really very easy to buy weapons here in the past. The weapons came from many places. The country was flooded with all types of weapons. I believe we all have to confront the challenge of collecting those weapons. We all have to engage in a general disarmament campaign. We have to start reducing the potential dangers of having weapons in the hands of civilians.

Of course, this does not mean we should go to extremes. There are honest people and private companies that require weapons to protect themselves. They should be allowed to have weapons because, if not, we would be leaving honest people and private firms at the mercy of the criminal sector's actions.

I, however, do believe the effort has to be continuous. We did the first part, which was to collect the weapons we had loaned to civilians and, especially, private companies that requested we help them [words indistinct] to obtain weapons in the market. We gave them the [words indistinct] armament. Those weapons have already been collected and Onusal has certified this. We also have another type of armament, which is assigned to the Justice Ministry's institutions, such as penitentiaries. The important thing is that we are able to account for the weapons and know where they are.

Undoubtedly, the weapons that are out of our control are the ones that present a danger and the ones we have to try to collect.

[Chavarria] The process continues?

[Corado] The process continues but under the responsibility of the National Police.

[Chavarria] What have the National Police been told now that the process is under their responsibility? What procedure must they follow? None of the organizations you mention are committing crimes. Those organizations kept weapons for security reasons. Regarding the National Police, you, yourself have mentioned that there are too many weapons floating around. Somebody must have sold those weapons [words indistinct] criminals. FMLN members could have sold their weapons. We recall that previous governments conducted campaigns to buy weapons from whoever presented them. We heard somewhere but do not know if it is true that this campaign, a campaign to buy weapons, will be reactivated. This could be a possible solution, because, as it has been pointed out previously, many Armed Forces members sold weapons. Civilians know this to be a fact. It was very easy to get weapons from certain offices or people of the sort who sold them. The institution must have registered those weapons somewhere.

[Corado] Yes. We are about to draft a new law on weapon ownership. I believe the new law will decisively contribute to improving the situation. We will be able to make a new inventory or report on the weapons held by civilians. I believe this effort must be a permanent one. The Armed Forces alone cannot be responsible for the fact that civilians continue to have weapons. As I have told you, there are still many irregularities in the compliance of laws, but I expect the new law will fill this void. Once the law is implemented we will have the possibility of [word indistinct] the quantity of weapons in the hands of civilians. Civilians are really the ones who potentially commit crime, especially unethical and immoral people who make ill use of weapons. Weapons on their own are not harmful. It is the way weapons are used that is harmful. A weapon can be good if it is used in a prudent, legitimate, and legal manner. This is what we are going to combat.

[Bodewing] Colonel, in the peace agreements, there was a point that concerns the Armed Forces directly; that is, the new Armed Forces' doctrine. I would like you to tell us what progress has been made in this regard.

[Corado] A great deal has been said about the Armed Forces' [word indistinct]. I can tell you, however, that it is not a new doctrine. The truth is that since its foundation the Armed Forces has had a doctrine. It has had its principles, which establish it as a permanent state institution, but these have been adopted to the changes as time went by. The foundation, the doctrine of any armed institution in any part of the world, revolves around the defense, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and under certain circumstances, our participation in national development campaigns, as well as internal security.

What we have done is adopt ourselves to the new constitutional reality, which is stipulated by agreements and the Constitution's reforms. In this regard, some of the responsibilities we had in the past have been excluded from our mission and we are now concentrating our efforts on those aspects of the doctrine that I mentioned earlier. Likewise, we maintain the military values and virtues [word indistinct] to political obedience, subordination, respect for the legal system, and the responsibility to maintain our institution in harmony with the civilian community; that is, we are incorporating all those values to our study. Now, the doctrine is the fundamental principle of any institution that regulates its conduct, but it is so extensive and considers so many levels that it will take time to consolidate; therefore, we are working very hard to develop this, attempting to establish an up-to-date doctrine for national defense. From there, we want to develop a Salvadoran doctrine related to the armed institution's military policy; that is, how we want the Armed Forces to be, how we want to develop it to bring it up to date with the current circumstances, not only local and regional but also worldwide, as the world is constantly changing.

We intend to make the Armed Forces adhere to these circumstances and we are also working on purely technical doctrinaire issues within each branch of the institution. In other words, we are trying to make the Armed Forces an institution that will truly guarantee the state's institutionality and be a credit to our country. We are working very hard on this. In January 1993 we created the Military Doctrine and Education Command, which

oversees all the Armed Forces education centers and ensures that they all maintain the highest level of training, betterment, specialization, and postgraduate studies so that officers and troops alike can receive a stronger and broader education, one that is truly aimed at fulfilling our constitutional missions. We have worked very hard on this and we are also organizing a course on high-level strategic studies, which we hope will be received favorably by civilian sectors whom we expect, for the first time in history, to participate in a course for civilians and military. At this course we will examine, debate, and study our national problems and reach conclusions that will benefit the country.

[Chavarria] With the advent of this Armed Forces doctrine and this new educational plan, what will happen with the other issues we discussed throughout the entire conflict, such as recruitment? As you said, the mandatory military service is in effect. It has always been criticized that peasant troops were the ones who gave their lives. This is not true of all the youthful sectors as it should have been. The poorest were the ones who largely gave their lives on both sides. What will the situation be now? Will military service be voluntary or obligatory as in other countries? Many youths are on the wrong path at present; they need a little discipline and perhaps six months of self-discipline and obedience training would serve them very well. It should be obligatory. What is the situation now?

[Corado] In reality the mandatory military service has been duly legislated; the law and its respective bylaws have been passed. What you have pointed out is true. In the past recruitment was not based on purely technical elements. Now we have a law that will make it possible for all Salvadorans to fulfill their civic duty. I believe military service is fundamental for Salvadoran society because a man who serves in the Army better understands the civic and patriotic values El Salvador must consolidate to have a healthy society.

Furthermore, if we all fulfill the obligatory military service we will be doing justice because every aspect of national defense will be equitably distributed among all sectors of society. I believe the implementation of the obligatory military service is a big step forward in Salvadoran legislation.

[Bodewing] Does the law contemplate sanctions for people who do not show up?

[Corado] Yes, of course. It is truly a complex process to implement this law. We have been unable to hold the drawing established by the law because to do so we must have fully updated records on all the Salvadoran citizens who are of age for obligatory military service.

In other words, we must have the lists of those who, on becoming 18 years old, must show up to register at the National Recruitment and Reserves Directorate General. They will be issued an identification card, which will allow them to obtain any personal documents or use it for any other purpose. After registration is complete that list will become part of a data bank that will provide the Armed Forces with contingents to be called upon to participate in a draft. This nationwide draft will be supervised by various institutions, including the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, and National Recruitment and Reserves Directorate General, and so on.

Fate will determine that some Salvadorans will become part of the military obligatory service while others will be exonerated. This will ensure greater heterogeneity within the Armed Forces. Thus, we will give greater opportunities to all Salvadorans who can serve in the Armed Forces.

[Chavarria] When will this start, Colonel? As for the gangs of young hoodlums, not long ago the directors of (Inframen) and (Iti) complained about the behavior of certain students. They claim that many students are seen wandering around San Salvador at 1030. We think that two or three Armed Forces trucks could patrol the streets and pick up these youths, who have neither registered nor are attending any school. They could be taken to a garrison to serve as soldiers for six months. This would rid downtown San Salvador of them for a long time. When will the recruiting and draft start?

[Corado] The recruitment will not take place in the way you described; that is, have vehicles pick up youths. We will use very technical methods. We are not ready to implement them yet, because it will require a very complex personnel and technical infrastructure. The directorate general is working on this. We might have to wait several more weeks, perhaps a year, before we can actually put it in practice.

As for incorporating antisocials into the Armed Forces, I really think this is a very delicate issue, because as an institution we cannot incorporate elements that are harmful to society. We could cooperate with certain activities to prevent them from committing crimes on the streets. We cannot incorporate them into our troops because we would be promoting future crimes by giving them access to weapons.

Ethics is very important for us. We are trying to strengthen them within our institution. Those Salvadoran citizens who serve in the Armed Forces leave transformed. They become people with ideals, who love their country more, who are aware of their obligations as a citizen, and who want to work and be useful to society and their families. I think we fulfill a very important social role in this regard. Someone has said that a nation's strength is gauged by the ethics and capabilities of its army. If we have a strong, truly ethical, and very professional Army, consisting of various elements of society, we will have a much (?wiser) society.

[Bodewing] We have another question we would like to take up before ending, as time is almost up. The arrival of the U.S. troops to carry out the so-called Fuertes Caminos programs generated a great deal of opinions and of controversy among the diverse sectors. What has

happened with them? How are the projects going? How much progress has been made? How long are they going to remain here? What are the contributions or the benefits for the Salvadoran community or for the nation, and so on?

[Corado] This exercise, Fuertes Caminos, is tied to an agreement signed between the U.S. and Salvadoran Governments. From every point of view, I believe that it is positive for the nation. This is a typical case where national interests should prevail over personal or sectoral interests. We should be more pragmatic than dogmatic. We should forget our personal interests or preferences, we should take into account the nation's well-being and take into account the true circumstances, the nation's reality, and the world's current reality. This Fuertes Caminos exercise is the construction of public works for the social benefit of La Paz and Cuscatlan Departments. They have been prepared jointly by the U.S. Army engineers deployed in Panama, some National Guard units from southern U.S. states, and the Salvadoran Armed Forces' engineer command. This is all legal. The current agreement is based on agreements signed in the past between the United States and El Salvador. These go back to 1954, they were ratified in (?1993) and during the conflict we experienced, we had close relations with the U.S. Armed Forces.

[Chavarria] Is the appeal of unconstitutionality filed by Nelson Garcia legal? Besides the appeal, he expressed himself quite strongly against the persons who accepted the U.S. troops presence.

[Corado] I respect Garcia's opinion. He has a right to undertake the series of proceedings in which he is engaged. Nevertheless, I disagree with the manner in which he focuses on the problem. In my opinion, as I mentioned previously, we are faced with a typical case where personal or sectoral interests wish to prevail over national interests. We were on the border of seeing a magnificent example of a unanimous consensus in the Legislative Assembly when this request was approved. The vote was 83 in favor and one against.

I believe that the deputy who voted against the motion was not present during the presentation we made to the Honorable Legislative Assembly and the cabinet ministers who are involved in this program. During this presentation they were able to perceive the benefits and gains of this program. Maybe he did not vote in favor of this program because he did not witness the presentation. It would have truly been a magnificent opportunity for the whole Legislative Branch, the representatives of the people, to vote unanimously in favor of a project that brings only benefits to the nation. I do not see any ill intention in this operation, I do not see negative consequences. We have acted in honestly correctly. We have asked the U.S. [word indistinct] with whom we have a permanent relationship, for this to simply be a technical and professional exercise, without any hidden intentions of any type. This is why I believe....[pauses] I hope that Supreme Court of Justice ratifies the Legislative Assembly's decision so that the full benefits can be obtained.

[Chavarria] You mentioned that recently you participated in a meeting called by Former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Nobel prize winner, with the regional defense ministers. We heard a comment by General Humberto Ortega who said that in the case of Nicaragua, they could not reduce the Army any further. What is the opinion of the defense ministers of the region on this? Are there possible reductions in the armies since we are in a process of integration or [word indistinct] independence?

[Corado] Each nation has its own realities, and each one has held its position in agreement with national interests. We coincided with Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, that currently it is not possible to make significant reductions.

This situation is, however, subject to change. National circumstances in each country determine the size of the army a country needs to maintain a regional balance and face possible conflicts. We must remember that instability in the region continues; therefore, I believe reducing the Salvadoran Armed Forces further at this time would be inadequate and inconvenient. In my opinion, we are capable of fulfilling our constitutional mission with the current number of soldiers. In addition, if we compare the proportional size of our armed institution with other Latin American countries, we will see that it is adequate. Now we have .5 percent of our population enrolled in the Army; in other words, we can see that the reduction has been really drastic. In my opinion, reducing a 60,000-man Army by 50.2 percent within a one-year period is really too much. This does not mean, however, that in the future we cannot make some further reductions, as long as national interests are protected. Maintaining regional balance is most important.

[Chavarria] One last question. Though you have clearly said that the Armed Forces are subordinated to civilian authority, the topic of the Armed Forces will surely be discussed during the electoral campaign. One of the presidential candidates is a member of the Armed Forces; on 24 August, in accepting his nomination, FMLN vice presidential candidate [Marco Tulio] Lima said he would ensure compliance with the Truth Commission's report. General Bustillo has a different position. What is your opinion on this subject, which could become one of the points to be discussed during the electoral campaign?

[Corado] As you know, I cannot favor any particular political party; therefore, I would prefer not to make any comments on that subject. I can only say that all Salvadoran citizens have a right to participate, and if we want to consolidate the democratic process, that is what we should do. In other words, regardless of origin, social condition, or ideology, all Salvadoran citizens should be

able to participate. We must fully respect our Constitution. Our Constitution is the basis for the state's structure, and it gives all citizens the opportunity to run for public office and also recognizes that voting is a citizen's right and duty. I believe if we act within the constitutional framework, our actions are legal.

[Chavarria] Colonel Corado, thank you for being with us.

[Corado] Thank you for your invitation.

Assembly Makes Electoral Card Mandatory Document

PA3008203893 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Legislative Assembly, on the evening of 25 August approved, with 54 votes in favor, a draft bill presented by ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], which makes the electoral card a mandatory document for all Salvadorans 18 years of age or older. ARENA submitted the proposal the afternoon of 25 August to expedite the process of issuing ca ds in view of next year's general elections.

The new law will become effective 1 January 1994; therefore, as of that date, it will be necessary to present the electoral card to conduct any public or private transaction. The law establishes, however, that the electoral card could be used as a personal identification card, unless legal provisions establish otherwise.

Onusal Chief Comments on Kidnappings, Armed Groups

PA3008200093 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] is investigating incidents that have occurred over the last few days in El Salvador. Onusal chief Augusto Ramirez Ocampo has expressed concern over the problems created by the kidnappings and the armed groups, which are operating in certain parts of El Salvador.

[Begin recording] [Ramirez] On 24 August, I believe, Onusal's human rights division issued a communique to this effect. It is truly worrisome to see the kidnappings, which are now having repercussions, reported in different parts of the country [words indistinct] and certain murders [words indistinct] has been working with the Salvadoran authorities to thoroughly investigate the case.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Ramirez] We are in the middle of an investigation. Once we establish a firm opinion we will disclose it to the authorities and general public, and we will send the respective report to the UN Security Council and secretary general.

[Reporter] The participation [words indistinct] the disarticulation of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] [words indistinct] if more weapons and armed groups are d scovered. [Words indistinct]. My question is, how will you avoid the problems that may emerge between political interest groups?

[Ramirez] There is one thing you should remember; it seems rather important to me. I might even say that it defines the situation. The FMLN's Political Commission has issued a message, signed by each and every one of the five former commanders, leaving no room for doubt, disassociating themselves from any military or armed actions. They are, in fact, as far as we know, people with different backgrounds, who are simply devoted to [word indistinct]. [end recording]

Dr. Ramirez Ocampo said that Onusal is working hard to identify the armed groups so that they can be neutralized at once. The organization is also investigating the events leading up to the murder of Oscar Grimaldi of the FMLN.

Guatemala

Peasant Group Occupies Supreme Court Building

PA3008215893 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] On 30 August, members of the Committee for Peasant Unity, CUC, with the support of the Labor and Popular Action Union, UASP, peacefully occupied the Supreme Court building. After the occupation, the CUC and UASP activists read an open letter addressed to the Supreme Court president, magistrates, and judges of Quiche and Huehuetenango Departments.

Peasants Demand Resignations

PA3008191993 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1826 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Today, the Peasant Unity Committee occupied the Guatemalan Supreme Court of Justice building. They demanded the resignation of nine justices and the dissolution of the militarized Civilian Self-Defense Patrols (PAC). Some 15 peasants entered the judicial building demanding the civilian patrolmen charged with killing peasant Tomas Lares in Joyabaj Province days ago be punished.

Simultaneous with the occupation of the building, which is located in downtown Guatemala City, the National Commission of Guatemalan Widows staged a demonstration demanding the resignation of judges and Supreme Court President Juan Jose Rodil Peralta.

The occupation of the judicial building occurred hours before the expiration of a deadline established by President Ramiro De Leon Carpio for the resignation of 116 legislators of the National Parliament and the justices.

Armando Sanchez, leader of the state workers, announced mobilizations to demand the resignation of the economic cabinet headed by Finance Minister Richard Aitkenhead. A state workers march is scheduled for next Wednesday. They announced a national strike that would reportedly involve 130,000 people.

Congress President Jose Lobo Dubon said this afternoon the 116 legislators will reveal their stand regarding De Leon Carpio's request for the resignation of legislator and justices made last week. Legislative sources pointed out the president could be sued for meddling in the affairs of other state branches, sedition, and for inciting violence.

Byron Morales, leader of the Labor and Popular Action Union, said state organizations must be purged in order to save the institutions. The labor leader called for a purge of the Executive Branch as well. Restoring credibility to the institutions "is unpostponeable in view of national efforts to improve the country's situation," Morales pointed out.

'Political War' Between State Branches Intensifies

PA3008195693 Paris AFP in Spanish 1910 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Aug (AFP)—This Monday, the "political war" between the executive and Congress gained momentum in Guatemala, where observers do not rule out an outbreak of violence caused by a confrontation between the state branches. The crisis erupted when Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice rejected a resignation request made by President Ramiro De Leon Carpio.

The purge of deputies and magistrates, which the president is attempting to undertake, has the support of 90 percent of the urban population, according to surveys. It has even caused a confrontation between the political parties, which oppose the reforms, and the private organized sector, which supports the reforms.

De Leon has also received the support of the Army; the National Consensus Group, which groups business, labor, popular organizations, and political parties; the Catholic Church; and other sectors of civilian society.

Today, Congress President Jose Lobo insisted, however, on "the search for a negotiated settlement" between the state branches, while rejecting "any solution that is not contemplated within the Constitution and the laws." This view is shared by Supreme Court President Juan Jose Rodil.

Meanwhile in the Guatemalan capital, tension is on the increase and last night's explosion at a banking agency, which did not cause casualties, has been linked to this confrontation. It appears to be part of an open confrontation between traditional politicians and the private sector.

An anonymous document is circulating in Congress accusing the business sector, particularly the sugar sector, of trying to "seize power." Last night's terrorist attack was aimed precisely against the BANEX [expansion unknown] Bank, owned by an influential sugar industry group in the country.

The purging "war" has already reached the publicity media, where Congress and the Instance for National Consensus [Instancia Nacional de Consenso, INC] are struggling for public support, while political analysts believe that "anything can happen" in this Guatemalan crisis, including an "outbreak of violence."

In view of this, business and political leaders have stepped up their security apparatuses, as President De Leon himself has done, according to a source close to the president.

The problem for the time being seems to be legal, because the legal codes do not offer many means to achieve a purge if the deputies do not resign, but the president said last week that he is willing to appeal to popular demonstrations and even call for a referendum to press for changes.

The party that is putting up the strongest fight against the purge is the Christian Democracy (DC), which has threatened to promote several laws to gain support, among them is one regarding farming issues, another pertains to the Indian peoples, which the private sector opposes, and another deals with salary improvements.

On 30 August, President de Leon continued touring the interior to gain support for his position, but he denied setting an 72-hour ultimatum for the congressmen and Supreme Court justices to resign.

DCG Ends Resistance, Accepts Purge of Congress

PA3108021993 Paris AFP in Spanish 0119 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Aug (AFP)—The Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG) has decided to accept the proposal to "purge" Congress, the group announced on Monday, thereby ending its resistance to pressure exerted on it by President Ramiro de Leon Carpio and civic groups.

This evening at a news conference, DCG Secretary General Alfonso Cabrera said that the party's 23 deputies are prepared to resign and he issued an appeal urging all congressmen to follow suit. He also recommended that the presidents of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches meet to discuss "the transition."

Cabrera refused to comment on what might be the best path to follow during the proposed "transition," but he says the DCG will strive to sponsor changes in the Constitution and to move up the elections scheduled for 1995.

The resignation of the deputies and Supreme Court magistrates has been publicly requested by President de Leon Carpio as a means to resolve "the crisis concerning the ability to rule," which was prompted by the failure of President Jorge Serrano's self-inflicted coup on 25 May.

The announcement of the DCG's acceptance drastically changes the political situation in Guatemala because greater resistance was expected in light of increased public pressure for a purge of Congress, which has been charged with corruption.

Some 63 of the 116 congressional deputies have already tendered their symbolic resignations before the National Consensus Coalition (INC), which comprises civic and social organizations. Now, they must formally present their resignations before Congress. At a news conference held today at the same time as Cabrera's news conference, the INC asked Congress to "purge" 16 deputies considered corrupt. Most of these deputies are DCG members, including Congress President Jose Lobo Dubon.

According to party sources, another party, the right-wing National Vanguard Party (PAN), will announce on Tuesday that its 12 deputies also are willing to resign.

PAC Members Capture EGP Commander

PA3008125493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2154 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Aug (NOTIMEX)—On 29 August, a military source informed NOTIMEX that members of the Guatemalan Civil Self-Defense Patrols (PAC) have captured (Joaquin Jimnez Ortiz), commander of the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP).

(Jimnez Ortiz), or (Joaquin Jimnez Bautista), who reportedly led the EGP between 1980 and 1982 and is accused of committing 82 murders, was captured in the northwestern town of Todos Los Santos. At the time of his capture (Jimnez Ortiz) was accompanied by a Canadian citizen, a high-ranking military source reported.

According to the report issued by the PAC in Todos los Santos, northwestern Huehuetenango Department, (Jimnez Ortiz), also known as Commander "Leonel," was captured 28 August.

The EGP leader, also a member of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), is charged with kidnapping and murdering 82 people, burning houses and two government buildings as well as buses that belonged to a private company. "Leonel" is also charged with participating in acts of sabotage against the power and road systems.

"Commander Leonel was recognized by several PAC members, who surrounded him near the Cuchumatanes Mountain Range, and after capturing him they handed him over to the police," the official report adds.

Meanwhile, U.S. citizen Jennifer Kristina Harbury, wife of Commander Efrain Bamaca "Everardo" of the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), on 29 August denied military reports that her husband had been killed in a clash. Bamaca, who led the "Luis Ixmata" rebel column in Rehalhuleu, 184 km west of Guatemalan City, "died in a clash," a Defense Ministry bulletin reported.

Rebel Santiago Cabrera "Carlos," who was able to evade the soldiers, told Harbury, however, that Bamaca was captured during a clash on 11 March 1992 in Montufar, Nuevo San Carlos, in Rehalhuleu. The Army reported that Bamaca died in that clash and was buried with a "double x" (unidentified) classification in the Retalhuleu cemetery. When the body was exhumed, Jennifer Harbury said that the remains were not those of her husband, and this was confirmed by U.S. coroner Michael Charnay.

According to information provided by "Carlos," who is currently in exile, Bamaca was seen in Santa Ana Berlin Military Zone, Retalhuleu Department, on 12 March 1992. According to Harbury, "Carlos" said that "Everardo was strapped to a steel bed and showed signs of having been tortured."

"Carlos" saw the rebel commander a second time on 18 July 1992 at another military detachment, "San Juan de Loarca," El Tumbador Municipality, on the border with Mexico. On this occasion he was strapped to a bed and drugged.

"Carlos" said that those people captured by the Army are transferred to various military zones to avoid being rescued by rebel columns.

Honduras

Joint U.S.-Honduran Military Exercise Ends

PA3008171793 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 30 Aug 93 p 8

[Text] La Ceiba—The joint "Cabanas 93" exercises, which were carried out in different parts of the country by U.S. and Honduran Armed Forces from 12 to 27 August, ended here on 28 August.

These operations allowed participants from both armies to verify their reaction capability to the threat posed by rebels and drug trafficking, as well as to train in offensive and defensive operations, coastal patrolling and interdiction, parachuting, and psychological operations, among other things.

The 3d, 4th, 5th, 7th, and 15th Special Forces Infantry Battalions participated in these maneuvers representing the Honduran Army, together with the 1st Special Forces Battalion, 2d Airborne Infantry Battalion, and Naval Forces.

Special units from the Air Force, Navy, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and more sophisticated units in counterinsurgency tactics participated in the exercises representing the United States.

The closing ceremony took place at the installations of the 4th Infantry Battalion and General Guillermo Paredes Hernandez, the Honduran Army general commander; and Gen. Lazaro Melanio Avila Soleno, minister of defense and public security; were present. Also present were Colonel Humberto Valencio, Army chief of operations, representing Armed Forces Chief Gen. Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, as well as the commanders of participating battalions and civilian authorities from that area.

Colonel Hugh F. Scrugge, commander of the Panama-based U.S. Southern Command Special Forces and head of the "Cabanas 93" Combined Task Force, and his entourage were present at the ceremony representing the U.S. Armed Forces. During the ceremony, there was an exchange of recognition plaques between the top military officers of both armies.

In his speech, Col. Scrugge stated that many people believe that with the end of the Cold War the danger is over, but the threat of subversion against the peace of countries persists. Scrugge considered that the "Cabanas 93" exercises demonstrate that the two Armies "are ready to confront those dangers."

Meanwhile, Gen. Avila Soleno said the objectives of these exercises have been completely fulfilled as far as planning is concerned. He noted that the said objectives have been fulfilled "in Cucuyagua, Pinalejo, Naco, La Ceiba, Trujillo, Gracias a Dios, Tamara, and La Venta, where the troops demonstrated their capability and effectiveness in combating the dangers that threaten continental democracy." Avila Soleno said that this training has permitted the integration of two armies to fight the "enemies of democracy, that always threaten, and defend democracy at any time circumstances require."

Nicaragua

Chamorro Invites UNO, FSLN to National Dialogue

PA3108033793 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2307 GMT 30 Aug 93

["Text" of letter issued by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro to the Political Council of the National Opposition Union (UNO) and UNO National Coordinator Willy Baltodano in Managua on 30 August—read by announcer]

[Text] After successfully securing the release of all the hostages in Quilali and Managua on 25 August, it is necessary to immediately promote an initial meeting with the two largest political forces in the country in an effort to reach a national agreement that will allow us to join efforts to overcome the country's crisis and erase the differences that separate us for the sake of the highest interests of the fatherland.

A national agreement must be the product of a political dialogue without conditions or exclusions. It must be a serious, frank, and open dialogue between the Government of the Republic, the National Opposition Union [UNO], and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], a dialogue that can reconcile our positions concerning vital issues of national interest.

After listening to the various political sectors and their positions, I believe these issues are as follow: 1) The elimination of violence and respect for national interest; 2) Constitutional reform; 3) The operation of the National Assembly; 4) The appointment of Supreme Court magistrates; 5) The appointment of the comptroller general of the Republic; 6) The military organization law; 7) The solution to our property problems; and 8) The country's economy policy aimed at achieving growth.

This effort should be completed in September, the month of the fatherland, to enable us to reach agreements during the final two months of the current legislative period. Any constitutional reform could then be approved in January 1994 and become law.

We have the support of the Central American presidents, who at my request, unanimously decided to support this effort to promote a national agreement; the OAS secretary general and a group of countries from the Consultative Group, who along with the UN secretary general, are interested in guaranteeing international cooperation for our country. This is why I invite you to a meeting at the Presidential Palace at 1800 on Tuesday, 31 August. I ask the UNO to limit its representation to a maximum of 10 people. I am asking the FSLN to do the same.

At the meeting we will have the support of the Central American foreign ministers, who have received a mandate from their respective countries to contribute to the achievement of a national agreement.

[Signed] With the hope that this meeting will be a positive step toward a national agreement among all Nicaraguans, Violeta Barrios Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua.

UNO Refuses To Attend

PA3108022793 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0156 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Managua, 30 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy has announced that the National Opposition Union (UNO) turned down an invitation issued today by President Violeta Chamorro to hold a dialogue with the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the government. According to Godoy, the invitation was rejected because of "previous commitments."

The liberal politician told ACAN-EFE that the UNO coalition, comprising former Chamorro allies, could not accept the invitation to a meeting aimed at ending the serious crisis facing the country because UNO's leaders had previous commitments.

Shortly before Godoy's announcement, Daniel Ortega, FSLN leader and former president of Nicaragua, had said he was sure UNO would accept the invitation to a national dialogue, which the Central American foreign ministers were scheduled to attend as witnesses.

Daniel Ortega Asks Government for 'Economic Truce'

PA3108035993 Paris AFP in Spanish 0229 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Managua, 30 Aug (AFP)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, while criticizing the increase in fuel prices, which was announced today, proposed that the government decree "an economic truce" to contribute to the creation of a climate favorable to dialogue.

Ortega, leader of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), announced that his organization had accepted an invitation to start talks with the government and the National Opposition Union (UNO), the former official coalition that is now part of the opposition, by President Violeta Chamorro Nevertheless, Ortega believes it necessary that measures be suspended, such as the increase in fuel prices—prices that were increased only six weeks ago—because they lead to more frustration among the people, who are suffering from hunger and unemployment.

[Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish at 2200 GMT on 30 August carries a three-minute, Managua-datelined report by reporter Adelaida Moncada on the most recent increase in gasoline prices. Moncada says: "The government has dealt a coup de grace to the people's economy with the new gasoline prices it decreed today. Drivers and citizens from all sectors say the economy will enter a phase of inactivity because people will not be able to cope with the new gasoline prices. A new increase in the cost of living is around the corner with the new fuel prices. Regular gasoline will go from 12.90 cordobas to 14.60 cordobas, and premium gasoline will go from 14.30 cordobas to 16.40 cordobas."]

The government invited the FSLN and UNO to a dialogue to begin 31 August, which would feature the attendance of the Central American foreign ministers, who are in Managua to promote understanding among the various Nicaraguan sectors. UNO, however, rejected the call by insisting on bilateral talks with the government, excluding the FSLN.

Through the proposed dialogue, the government is hoping to overcome the socioeconomic crisis the country now faces following the end of the war between Sandinist and "contra" forces in 1990, a situation worsened by groups of irregulars, who, last week, carried out two simultaneous kidnappings of political leaders, deputies, military officers, and government officials.

After meeting with the foreign ministers, Ortega called on the government to apply emergency programs in the areas most affected by the economic policies and where armed groups operate in order that, in addition to amnesty, they might be given an opportunity to reinsert themselves into the country's productive life. According to Ortega, the tripartite dialogue is "essential" to respond to the people's calls demanding immediate solutions to the economic and social crisis.

Vice President Virgilio Godoy, an UNO leader and who has no functions within the government, told the press that UNO would not attend the meeting. Godoy said he is maintaining his May demands to the administration of President Chamorro. Among the demands is the resignation of Army Chief General Humberto Ortega. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 0242 GMT on 31 August adds: "The FSLN leader also asked UNO to revoke its decision not to attend the tripartite dialogue, which was called for by the Chamorro government."]

Sandinists Say Cerna Remains Intelligence Chief

PA3108001893 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Aug 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] EL NUEVO DIARIO confirmed on 26 August that Lieutenant Colonel Lenin Cerna has not been removed from office even though, for the past 15 days, he has been out of the country.

Sources close to the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] informed EL NUEVO DIARIO that Cerna is on a fact-finding trip to Spain in light of the fact that the directorate he heads will shortly fall under the jurisdiction of the Presidency of the Republic. As everyone knows, the EPS Intelligence Directorate, even though it will continue to be a military institution, will fall under the jurisdiction of the Defense Ministry or the Presidency of the Republic.

In other countries, particularly in Spain, which Nicaragua is using as a model, this double role is indispensable. The nature of the work done by the directorate is such that it cannot be affected whenever a government changes because continuity is essential in this kind of work.

In conclusion, the sources said that Cerna will be returning to the country soon and that any changes in the Intelligence Directorate will be included in the new military law.

Bolivia

Antelo Prevents Armed Clash on Brazilian Border

PY3008171993 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1814 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] La Paz, 28 Aug (AFP-NA)—According to a report released by Information Minister Herman Antelo on Saturday, Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar prevented an imminent armed confrontation between Bolivian and Brazilian troops last Thursday, 26 August, on the border between the two countries.

In remarks published by the Santa Cruz periodical EL DEBER, Antelo explained that the incident was about to take place on the banks of the Tarbo River, a natural border between the Bolivian Department of Santa Cruz and the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, some 1,300 km east of La Paz.

According to the minister, the main cause of the conflict was the dispute between Brazilian and Bolivian large estate owners over the exploitation of timber forests. The Bolivians have reportedly verified the incursion of Brazilians into Bolivian territory and so they asked for protection from the Army which sent a 10-men patrol headed by a lieutenant.

Upon its arrival at the place of the incident, the Bolivian patrol was threatened, last Thursday, by three Brazilian soldiers. The patrol was told to either leave the place in one hour or else they would be expelled by force. This was reported to EL DEBER by workers of a Bolivian sawmill. This threat was the main cause of the dispute.

The report adds that as the deadline expired, the Brazilian soldiers began to fire warning shots, to which the Bolivian soldiers did not reply. The patrol informed the Army high command about this emergency situation and the Army high command passed the report to the Foreign Ministry. The foreign minister immediately called Brazilian Ambassador to La Paz Joao Guimaraes to resolve this situation in a peaceful manner.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister contacted by radio the Bolivian patrol on the border and ordered its commander to make his troops withdraw 2 km toward Bolivian territory. The Brazilians would do the same on orders of the Brazilian ambassador to La Paz, the EL DEBER report states.

As the incident was overcome, Minister Antelo stressed to the media "the Brazilian ambassador's decision to solve the conflict as soon as possible and in peaceful manner," and said that for this reason he agreed to send a binational commission to investigate the incident.

Brazil

'General Campaign' by U.S. Media Against Brazil Claimed

PY3008211993 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Aug 93 p 16

[Article by Paulo Francis]

[Text] New York—The Clinton government seems determined to negotiate bilaterally with Brazil only if there are guarantees and security for the Ianomami Indians. It is a moralistic government. It cancelled $1 billion worth of exports to China because China had reportedly sold nuclear materials to Pakistan.

There is a general campaign against Brazil by the U.S. media. The most influential one is THE NEW YORK TIMES. In addition to various reports by correspondent James Brooke, THE NEW YORK TIMES yesterday published on the opinions page an article by anthropologist Spencer Tuner, holding the Brazilian Government directly responsible for the alleged massacre of 73 Ianomami Indians—an alleged massacre, because no bodies have been found.

Amazon Forest

Yesterday THE NEW YORK TIMES published an editorial on the massacre in the Amazon forest. It did not hold the Franco government directly responsible, but noted that since 1970 there have been 16 massacres of Indians in the Amazon region that have not been investigated by the Brazilian Government. The connotation is obvious.

With a new ambassador in Washington, the experienced Paulo Tarso Flexa de Lima, and an Amazon region minister, Rubens Ricupero, with a good reputation, the Franco government has a chance to unravel these issues and—what is most important—enforce the law and establish order in the Amazon region.

Venezuelan Fishing Boat Seized Off Amapa Coast

PY3008181093 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The 11 crew members of a Venezuelan fishing boat, seized off the Amapa State coast with three metric tons of fish, will have to leave Brazil within 72 hours.

The fishing boat Mazatlan is now at the port of Belem. It was seized by the Navy 12 miles off the Brazilian coast.

The three metric tons of fish carried by the fishing boat will be donated to a charity institution by the Ibama [Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources].

Army Minister Interviewed on State of Military

PY3008182093 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Aug 93 Section 1 p 8

["Exclusive" interview with Army Minister Geneal Zenildo de Lucena by Katia Cubel; place and date not given]

[Text] [Cubel] Is it very burdensome to be Army minister?

[de Lucena] It is full of concerns, over difficulties with deadlines, low salaries, new equipment, and the desire to leave to my successor an Army in as good condition as when I received it.

[Cubel] Is the Army in bad shape?

[de Lucena] Our vehicles are. Our arms can be rated between regular and reasonable. Regarding heavy weapons... and it is not that we want an Army with 200,000 men ready for a war in the Persian Gulf, but we do want a nucleus of modern forces. Even if it is only to keep our people motivated.

[Cubel] But it is not just a matter of equipment.

[de Lucena] The salary problem works against motivation. Our soldiers understand the difficulties and know that the government cannot pay more. The lack of equality with other public workers' salaries is, however, painful.

[Cubel] Will that lack of equality "deteriorate" your human resources?

[de Lucena] Maybe. It lowers the social and economic standard of those who work hard. The last resort of a military career has always been idealism. We are trying to preserve this in the officer training schools.

[Cubel] Is there any possibility that military salaries will improve during this administration?

[de Lucena] We have discussed our situation with the president and he is aware of the problem. Our difficulties are those of the entire country, and we understand that. Sacrifice is part of our career even though we do not like it when others do not make the same sacrifice.

[Cubel] This question of salaries has spurred some movements among the military, particularly among those in the reserve.

[de Lucena] Active duty military men cannot get involved in movements, but the dissatisfaction exists. Active duty personnel must control themselves. We would like to see others making the same sacrifices though.

[Cubel] Is the launching of Brigadier Ivan Frota's presidential candidacy a reflection of that dissatisfaction?

[de Lucena] As a citizen he has the right to elect and be elected.

[Cubel] How did the Armed Forces receive his candidacy?

[de Lucena] I do not know. We have not fully evaluated it yet. Besides, there was not much interest in evaluating it.

[Cubel] Will you vote for him?

[de Lucena] The vote is secret. But I have not chosen a candidate yet. I do not even know if Brigadier Frota will be a candidate. It is his right. We have had good military presidents in the past, including those you usually speak about. No ine can say that President Castello Branco or President Ernesto Geisel, for instance, were not good presidents. You may disagree with their policies but not with their administrations.

[Cubel] Many economists say that the foreign debt increased immensely during the military governments.

[de Lucena] But the money was invested in infrastructure. We would still have been a primitive country if we did not make those investments. Those investments were made within the framework of a process to modernize the country. Everybody speaks of Juscelino Kubitschek, but our inflation began with construction of Brasilia.

[Cubel] Do you see any way to lower the inflation rate?

[de Lucena] The solution is in the conscience of all Brazilians. If we all cooperate with the finance minister—whom by the way I admire a lot—our inflation rate would probably drop. Everyone must cooperate, as the president and Minister Fernando Cardoso often say.

[Cubel] Entrepreneurs place the responsibility for our problems on the government, while the government blame entrepreneurs...

[de Lucena] The government is not altogether responsible for our problems. We must also look at our laws, which permit many things nowadays. But that is tilled land and I should better stay away from it.

[Cubel] The president often says that inflation is pushing the country toward a state when it will be impossible to govern...

[de Lucena] Did he say that?

[Cubel] He even speaks of a possible coup.

[de Lucena] No. He does not speak of coups. He thinks there is no reason to worry about a coup. As far as we are concerned, that is, the Armed Forces, there is nothing to worry about. Maybe some groups want a coup. Democracy allows even that. Many people miss the era of strong governments.

[Cubel] Do you miss the era of strong governments?

[de Lucena] No. I am a democrat. I think we must have discipline, without it we would not go anywhere. We

must trust the government. We must all cooperate so that together we can defeat our problems. I feel there is too much individualism. Many people only think about themselves. They do not think that they are only contributing to everyone's defeat.

[Cubel] To what do you attribute so many coup rumors?

[de Lucena] To the current widespread dissatisfaction with the current situation. There are individual tastes; some like strong regimes. There is generalized dissatisfaction among people, among certain groups. There is no doubt about it, although it is in the initial stage.

[Cubel] Is there a possibility of a military coup?

[de Lucena] There is no support for a coup. Who will support a coupist? I don't believe anyone from outside the institution (the Armed Forces) will suggest it. Leadership within the Armed Forces stems from those who are invested with the post. Although we have had great ministers in the past, they are no longer in a position to launch a coup. They are no longer admitted in today's world. With the difficult situation we are experiencing today, imagine how we would confront the world with a coup d'etat. We would be pushed aside by international society.

[Cubel] Do you rule out that possibility during the Itamar Franco government?

[de Lucena] The Armed Forces will not take any initiative to overthrow the government. Much less a president who has understood us, who has given us prestige, and who has worried about the Armed Forces issue. What he lacks is sufficient resources.

[Cubel] Is the Army Intelligence Service investigating the coup rumors?

[de Lucena] That is the type of information we need to have: Where they come from and who disseminates them. There are sectors interested in worsening the situation. They may even be international groups, although there is no confirmation of this. There are groups with economic interests that seek to destabilize the government.

[Cubel] Colonel Romao (Federal Police Director Wilson Romao) announced the other day the restoration of the information service. What do you think of the return of the SNI [National Intelligence Service]?

[de Lucena] It is not the SNI. It is an information service. Every time someone talks about information, he relates it to some possible abuse that may have happened. No one can give up an intelligence service. We never gave up that service. In the past there may have been abuses. But it was a moment of struggle against guerrillas. In times of peace, the intelligence services refer to the maintenance of order. Right now we have problems in Roraima [the alleged massacre of Indians], which are not yet very clear. If we had an intelligence service, perhaps the attack would not have taken place.

[Cubel] Do you believe in the internationalization of the Amazon?

[de Lucena] It is our concern. The wealth of the Amazon region worries us. There are too many great interests in that area. The greatest mineral reserves in the world are there. That is the reason for the permanent presence of wildcat gold miners there.

[Cubel] Do you believe the massacre of Ianomami Indians will prompt a discussion of the issue?

[de Lucena] I will not rule out that possibility, but it is not very probable. These episodes can be the result of some meddling, by some British movements. They did not have such worries—perhaps for that very reason—in their own territory. And now they are worrying about the territory of others.

[Cubel] What is the relationship between the U.S. maneuvers on the Guyanese border and the alleged intention to internationalize the Amazon region?

[de Lucena] It is just a small unit the United States has in the area. They are taking advantage of bases that already existed there for jungle warfare. A country like the United States has interests throughout the world. It must implement antiguerrilla warfare training. I think most of what is happening can be blamed on drug trafficking. The United States is obsessed with drugs. Their greatest concern is production, not consumption.

[Cubel] How do you see the Ianomami Indians issue?

[de Lucena] That issue of the "Ianomami land" is dangerous. The land is Brazilian. We must be cautious. It is like Bosnia. Who knows what the Ianomami Indians will do after some education. Their relatives on the Venezuelan side, who knows what will they want later? It is a crazy situation, but we must worry about maintaining that land. The land does not belong to the Ianomamis. The Ianomamis are a tribe. Yet we cannot keep them isolated from the world.

[Cubel] Should the Indians be educated?

[de Lucena] We would jest keep them in a zoo if we wanted to maintain them for research and for the future. We cannot leave them without the benefits of civilization. I think it must be progressive, conducted scientifically.

[Cubel] Do you think 9 million hectares for the reservation is too much and that part of it should be open for exploitation?

[de Lucena] I agree that it is too large for few Indians. The Indian-per-hectare ratio is a little exaggerated. I saw the project that was prepared during the Jose Sarney government, of the 19 islands. That project, as I see it, was a good alternative.

[Cubel] Are there other solutions?

[de Lucena] One solution, submitted by the SAE (Strategic Affairs Secretariat), was to install a radar system to the area. The other seeks to populate the border points, which is in the Calha Norte project proposed during the Sarney government. It would be a sort of colonization.

Colombia

Nicaragua's Ortega on Talks With FARC in Cuba

PA3008225493 Santa Fe De Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Announcer-read report over video from the "TV Today" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Sandinist leader Daniel Ortega, former president of Nicaragua, has told "TV Today" that he held talks in recent days with representatives of the Colombian guerrillas in Havana, Cuba. The insurgents are apparently seeking support from international human rights organizations to press for negotiations with the Colombian Government.

Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said he met in Cuba 60 days ago with representatives of the Colombian guerrillas. According to Ortega, several international organizations held talks in Havana with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board during the Sao Paulo Forum.

[Ortega] "We have talked with them, and they expressed their willingness to find a peaceful solution through dialogue and negotiations. They are willing to negotiate. We even pledged during the Sao Paulo Forum, of which I later informed COPPAL [Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties], to promote an initiative that would permit COPPAL, the Sao Paulo Forum, and the Socialist International to get involved in an effort along these lines."

There are several questions yet to be answered concerning the talks held in Havana between Colombian guerrillas and representatives of other countries. Were there discussions of which the country is unaware? What does the surprising visit of Fidel Castro to Colombia have to do with the talks with the guerrillas? What does the government know about the guerrillas' dialogues in Havana? On 29 August, the foreign minister made statements in this regard.

[Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin] "We are indeed requesting official information concerning this matter to learn what is it all about."

Meanwhile, "TV Today" interviewed the leader of the guerrilla commander who kidnapped representatives of Nicaragua's National Opposition Union and held them for six days.

[Unidentified reporter] "What would be your message to the Colombian guerrillas—namely, FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and ELN [Army of National Liberation]?

[Commander 31] "They should seek talks with the government, as we are going to do, to lay down their weapons and end, once and for all, the war in Latin America."

[Reporter] "Are Marxism and Leninism still valid in Latin America?"

[Commander 31] "Those doctrines are finished. There should be more political currents in the world."

Foreign Minister Meets With Venezuelan Counterpart

PA3008165293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 30 Aug 93

[From the "TV Today" newscast; report by Jesus Garzon]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Colombia and Venezuela met on 29 August in Santa Fe de Bogota. The Venezuelan foreign minister made severe warnings regarding the problem of guerrillas at the border, illegal aliens, and Colombian inmates in Venezuelan jails. A diplomatic kiss did not prevent the Venezuelan foreign minister from entering Santa Fe de Bogota in a very careful manner and speaking rough.

[Begin Venezuelan Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich recording] The presence of subversive forces on the Venezuelan border compromises the process of friendship and affection that has always joined us with Colombians. [end recording]

Later, in a strong tone, Ochoa Antich termed the presence of Colombian illegals in Venezuelan territory as a disrespect to the country.

[Begin Ochoa Antich recording] Colombia must understand that the presence of illegals in Venezuela is an irregular problem, a disrespect to Venezuelan laws. [end recording]

To top it off, the high-ranking official of the neighboring country denied the Colombian Congress permission to enter Venezuelan prisons.

[Begin Ochoa Antich recording] Undoubtedly, the Colombian parliament has no right to control jails in Venezuela. [end recording]

The Venezuelan foreign minister will meet on 30 August with President Gaviria to discuss judicial, political, and economic issues of both countries.

Defense Minister Rules Out Talks With Rebels

PA3108023793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Report by Alvaro Ayala from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] The national government today definitely ruled out peace talks with the Guerrilla Coordinating Board to resolve the military conflict prevailing within the country.

During the funerals of 13 policemen, who were killed 28 August in Usme, Cundinamarca Department, by a combined front of Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and Army of National Liberation rebels, Defense Minister Rafael Pardo said peace must be achieved by strengthening the Armed Forces.

[Begin Pardo recording] We do not believe there is need to modify the strategy and policy to restore public order. Instead, we must strengthen and intensify them. [end recording]

He also challenged Bucaramanga Bishop Dario Castrillon to contact judges whenever he has to report abuses by public forces, instead of going around undermining their prestige.

[Begin Pardo recording] I ask this important prelate, who is so respected by all Colombians, not to limit himself to issuing vague and generalized charges. If he has evidence he must say who has ordered assassinations and illegal executions; and he must bring the evidence to the courts of justice. [end recording]

Referring to the massacre of the 13 policemen, judicial authorities only know what was stated by a sole survivor.

Rebel Financial Centers in Big Cities Claimed

PA3008165393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Aug 93

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] On 26 August, General Hernan Jose Guzman, the Colombian Armed Forces commander, said that according to the latest Army intelligence reports the Colombian guerrilla financial centers are located in the country's leading cities. Guzman made the assertion shortly before departing for Venezuela. He also referred to the kidnapping of industrialist Carlos Upegui.

[Begin Guzman recording] The guerrillas have urban organizations, whose activities they have attempted to step up but the Army, Public Force, police, and Administrative Department of Security have dealt them serious blows, thereby making it difficult for them to maintain these special organizations. Cities provide the support for subversives to survive in rural areas. [end recording]

A few moments ago Gen. Guzman departed for Venezuela where he will present information collected by Colombian state intelligence organizations regarding guerrilla activity and organized crime on the border. Guzman says it is too early to assert that businessman Carlos Upegui is being held by the 22d Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. He said that the authorities have not dismissed the possibility that Pablo Escobar Gaviria ordered the industrialist's abduction.

Paraguay

Opposition Independent Leader Meets With Wasmosy

PY3008162993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Aug 93 p 3

[Text] Guillermo Caballero Vargas, leader of the National Encounter Alliance independent movement, told this newspaper that he met with President Juan Carlos Wasmosy at Mburuvicha Roga [presidential residence] on 26 August. Caballero Vargas and Wasmosy discussed the much-discussed issue of governability. He made it clear that his movement will remain in opposition to Congress.

Caballero Vargas said he talked with Wasmosy for one hour and a half. He said the president invited him "for coffee" at his residence. He said Wasmosy asked about his position regarding the governability pact, which is being sponsored by his former electoral opponent Domingo Laino. "He wanted to know, first hand, the position of the National Encounter Alliance," Caballero Vargas said. "I made it perfectly clear that we will remain faithful to our voters because someone must represent the opposition in this country," Caballero stressed.

He said the National Encounter will remain in the opposition because someone must check on the government. "The role of the opposition is precisely to control and supervise the Executive Branch," Caballero said. "We have an excellent opportunity to exercise that control and supervise from Congress, always making a responsible opposition," Caballero said.

He said that Wasmosy did not ask for or offer anything, adding that the president only listened while he explained the independent movement's position on current problems. Caballero said the "grand pact" for governability was already established in the June 1992 Constitution, adding that there is no alternative but to "strictly" respect the provisions of the Constitution.

Caballero said that this does not rule out the possibility of strengthening constructive dialogue, seeking agreement on different positions. He said there are basic points affecting the country's institutionalization that merit discussion among the different political forces, including the government. Among those important points he mentioned an independent Council for Magistrates and the Armed Forces organization law.

The meeting between the president and Caballero Vargas was the first since election day on 9 May. Caballero

Vargas and Laino did not recognize Wasmosy's victory. The opposition leader was not present during Wasmosy's inauguration on 15 August. "By the time I received the invitation it was too late because I was already abroad," he explained.

Wasmosy Administration Said 'Heading for Failure'

PY3108034293 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 29 Aug 93 p 17

[Pablo Alfredo Herken Krauer Commentary: "Failure's Success"]

[Text] Can the economic change that we are all awaiting be made by going back to the old ways of making and managing politics in Paraguay?

Is it possible to say that one wants to implement a social market economy that blends economic freedom with social justice, if one turns the government and the state into the sole domain of the Colorado Party and its hangers-on?

Can a market economy riddled with the "Colorado Party's hangers-on" lift us up from the backwardness in which we are emersed?

Can a market economy plagued by "patronage" come to grips with the problem of poverty that hits one out of three Paraguayans?

Can one manage to restructure the public sector (government and government-owned enterprises) in order to modernize our economy, if once again the public sector becomes just a booty of war?

Can we change our image as a hardly serious, unsafe, and unstable country by naming government officials that are not serious, self-assured, and able?

Can a president of the Republic face and solve the great national problem confronting us if he does nothing but use his patronage to bestow posts, rewards, favors, power, and privileges to those who helped him achieve victory, and present him with bills?

Can there be a governability pact with a president who has to toe his party line, does not rule the roost, and is trapped in a cul-de-sac?

Can President Wasmosy be successful in his ambitious and "harsh" plan by governing the way he has so far? Can we be so naive?

No. The answer is categorically no.

Those who have already begun to say that Wasmosy did not begin by doing what he was supposed to, and that he is heading for failure, are by no means few.

He promised us a national, rather than Colorado Party government, and yet a market economy riddled with "Colorado Party hangers-on" seems to be in vogue at present.

He promised us that he would name able and honest people, and yet he forms a cabinet whose members' ability and image are quite questionable—a cabinet that is frowned upon by citizens—and makes appointments to government posts that take everybody by surprise.

Drawing a parallel with the previous administration, one may venture to say that General Rodriguez proved to be much more independent and professional at the beginning of his administration than Wasmosy.

In sum, Wasmosy has had a false start. I do not know whether he knows it, but people in general do think and feel so.

Some may contend that it is too soon to be disappointed. Well, it may be so. However, if things continue as they are, sooner or later disappointment will surely ensue.

Wasmosy is far—immensely far—from being what many of us expected. It hurts to say it, but one must speak up. Wasmosy's harshest critics point out that the false start is but a confirmation of the idea that whoever is ill-born and keeps bad company cannot do anything good, and sooner or later comes to a sticky end.

The most generous ones put forward the incredible interpretation that Wasmosy has divided his difficult 1993-98 presidency into stages.

In the first one, they argue, Wasmosy cannot avoid failure, because it is impossible to form a national government that is able to change the economy and improve Paraguayans' standard of living if he has to fill government vacancies with Colorado Party members, hangers-on, opportunists, and use patronage, bestowing privileges and favors right and left.

Given the majority of people that Wasmosy placed in the government and state, the way he deals with Congress and how he tries to appease the opposition (agreeing to sharing out government posts), quite a lot of people believe that failure will be the distinctive trait of the first stage of Wasmosy's administration.

And the greatest price that we will have to pay will be to almost sacrifice the bulk of the possibilities of pump-priming and strengthening the country's economy, and delay the government's financial adjustment. In other words, we should not expect miracles in the economic sphere in 1994.

This is the message that is being transmitted to the private sector, and is spreading like wildfire.

In light of Wasmosy's handling of political affairs, which did not come up to expectations, there is no possibility whatsoever of implementing in a deep and speedy

manner the bulk of the economic program he proposed during the election campaign, which had given rise to so much hope.

"Wasmosy is not surrounded with the best people in the Economy Ministry," a businessman told me, "and even within government-owned enterprises and the government itself, party affiliation once again is preferred to professional skills and intelligence; hence, things are unfortunately going from bad to worse."

The businessman added that "as things stand, we will have to wait, because I do not think there are going to be major economic changes."

From a political standpoint, our president goofed his kick-off, and therefore the economy will continue stagnating and the result of the next cotton and soybean harvest will be a case of sink or swim. Wasmosy goofed his kick-off because the Colorado Party, rather than the country, was uppermost in his mind, because he could not sever the chains that tie him to vested interests and military pressures, and because he did not seek the support of the Paraguayan people by clothing himself solely and exclusively with the tricolor.

Thus the only assured success is failure, whether or not it is sought, but failure in any case.

Venezuela

Foreign Minister on Coup Rumors

PA3008152193 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich by Dario Arizmendi, host of the "6:00 AM to 9:00 AM" newscast, in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] What is happening in Venezuela with the soldiers? The media today is reporting about a special meeting of the Defense and Security Council that will start at 1000. Are there coup rumors again?

[Ochoa] Rumors have reappeared in the past few days in Venezuela due to the very limited terrorist acts that occurred during the past weeks. Venezuela is a society that had never faced terrorism. These are small-scale terrorist acts, very small ones. I would like to make clear that they are small-scale acts and that we are, undoubtedly, not a society subdued by terrorism. Those acts have generated rumors in Venezuela again. I can make an assessment, however, of this with a certain degree of responsibility and backed by extensive knowledge on this issue.

[Arizmendi] Yes, sir.

[Ochoa] The first thing I must emphasize is that the Venezuelan Armed Forces, a great majority of it, in the two instances that a minority group, which I described as a military lodge, dared to rebel against Venezuelan democracy; a great majority of the Armed Forces remained loyal, on 4 February 1992 as well as on 27 November 1992.

They remained loyal for various reasons. We have a lengthy history of military interventions and realize how inappropriate it is for the Armed Forces to meddle in politics, because domestic unity of the Armed Forces is broken; professionalism is lost, and this causes great damage to the Armed Forces and the country.

Second, we are completely convinced that if military coups were the real solution to our problems Latin America, Venezuela, and other Latin American countries, which have experienced many coup d'etats, would undoubtedly be among the world's most developed countries, which we are indeed not. Thus, a military option is not the solution to political problems.

I must also underscore that the Venezuelan people, in a very consistent manner and on several occasions, on 4 February and 27 November, during the pots and pans demonstration and during the suspension of President Perez, have shown great maturity and civic-mindedness at all times and have shown absolute rejection to violence. Thus, I do not think the people would tolerate a situation of this sort.

Moreover, we will hold elections in three months; there will be elections in three months. The four most important candidates have sufficient electoral strength to prevent any action of this sort; also, there are no political causes or reasons to justify a coup d'etat.

Now, Venezuela is under the leadership of President Dr. Ramon J. Velasquez, an eminent Venezuelan of proven honesty, a man who has served Venezuela well in the past. Thus, what reasons are there to rebel against Venezuelan democracy, when we have had the ability and maturity to resolve the political crisis we have been facing?

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister Ochoa, what is the source of those terrorist acts? Who is promoting them?

[Ochoa] I cannot.... [pauses] It would be irresponsible on my part to name anyone specifically, because there is no evidence so far. We have only managed to arrest the masterminds of the letter bomb incidents. The Venezuelan Judicial Technical Police have shown a very high degree of technical capability. They said clearly that the letter bomb case was solved. The two retired agents of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services, who were arrested for being responsible for such acts, were turned over to the courts.

I think this involves minuscule groups that are desperate, because they have realized that Venezuelan democracy overcame the crisis and is headed for recovery. There are clear factors at play here. The Venezuelan crisis actually began 10 years ago as a result of a drop in petroleum prices and the loss of hope within Venezuelan society.

That constituted a very important challenge for Venezuelan democracy to which the country has been responding.

Four years ago only one candidate was elected by direct vote in Venezuela, the president of the Republic. Now, the president of the Republic, state governors, mayors, councilmen, Legislative Assembly members, and 50 percent of the Chamber of Deputies are elected by direct vote. This is a very significant achievement in the political field.

In the economic field, although we have not been able to resolve the inflation problem precisely because of the political crisis we are facing, a special powers law will enable the acting president to issue various laws. This will make it possible to overcome the fiscal deficit in 1994, to control inflation, and thus to strengthen the Venezuelan economy. This will require dismounting a populistic system that is no longer feasible with current Venezuelan oil revenues.

[Arizmendi] Finally, Minister Ochoa, we thank you for this interview for Emisoras Caracol's "0600 to 0900" newscast.

[Ochoa] My greetings to the eight radio stations that join the Emisoras Caracol Network at this time.

[Arizmendi] Thank you Minister Ochoa; there are eight radio stations linked to this newscast in Boyaca Department.

[Ochoa] Yes, in Boyaca Department.

[Arizmendi] We would like to hear your reply to criticisms made by certain Colombian sectors regarding an alleged mistreatment of Colombian inmates in Venezuelan jails.

[Ochoa] In reality, we Venezuelans are very unhappy with our jail system. I must note, however, that the problem has not been created by Venezuela. It has been created by Colombia, for example, there are 12 Venezuelan inmates in Colombia now, while there are 1,800 Colombian inmates in Venezuela. As you can see, this high number of criminals makes our jail system more complex. Colombian inmates receive the same treatment as Venezuelan inmates; there is no difference. We are not satisfied with Venezuelan jails, and we are sure Colombians are not happy with Colombian jails either. Unfortunately, this situation is due to inefficient state administration and the inability to face those problems.

We began discussing this subject several months ago, approximately a year ago. We have insisted on this matter and now have brought a specific proposal to try to reach an agreement between Venezuela and Colombia for repatriating inmates. Of course, each state will be committed to having them serve their sentences in their respective countries. This proposal is under study. I believe it is a humanitarian solution, as prisoners feel much better if they are close to their families. We hope the Colombian Government will accept Venezuela's proposal and that the problem can finally be settled through a treaty for repatriating prisoners.

Oil Corporation Board Member on Proven Reserves

PA3008171893 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 25 Aug 93 p 12

[Text] Arevalo Guzman Reyes, a member of the Venezuelan Petroleum Corporation, PDVSA, board of directors, stated at a recent forum that Venezuela has 63 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, of which 75 percent are heavy and extra-heavy crude.

In addition to the mentioned reserves, there are approximately 320 billion barrels in potential resources, which include approximately 40 billion barrels of light- and medium-crude reserves still to be tapped and 280 billion barrels of crude at the Orinoco Belt. Reyes said that "even though the mentioned amounts duplicate the current production levels, they will suffice for a period that goes beyond the life expectancy of petroleum as a source of world energy."

Reyes mentioned several elements that will influence world energy demands, such as, among others, production costs, final prices at difference sources, environmental protection, industrialized countries' energy policies, economic and demographic growth, and technological advances. The PDVSA official said that even if petroleum lost its participation in the world energy market, it is estimated that the potential demand for hydrocarbons will be approximately 75 million barrels a day in 2002 and approximately 82 million in 2010, as compared to the 66 million barrels a day consumed in 1992. This, he added, shows a demand increase of approximately 1.2 percent a year.

Analyzing the supply, Reyes said that non-OPEC countries will continue to be stable until the end of the century and will then start to decrease moderately. This information leads to the conclusion that the increase of oil consumption in the world will have to be satisfied by the six OPEC countries that have the largest reserves and response capacity: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, the Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. "In our country's case, the market possibilities increase to approximately 3.6 million barrels a day in 2002 and 4.6 million in 2010," the Venezuelan added.

According to plans prepared to this effect, the PDVSA expects to reach a potential production of 4 million barrels a day by 2002, which include 2.2 million barrels a day of condensed, light, and medium crude and 1 million of heavy and extra-heavy crude from traditional areas; 500,000 from new exploratory areas; and 300,00 barrels a day of synthetic crude to be supplied by the integrated production and conversion projects at the Orinoco Belt.

The PDVSA official said the possibility of taking advantage of Venezuela's market possibilities are limited by

the availability of financial resources, among others, to make the necessary big investments in the immediate future.

Reyes said that the PDVSA is planning to make big investments on its own and with the assistance of national firms and international conglomerates. The investments are estimated at $48 billion, of which the PDVSA will contribute $37 billion and the remaining $11 billion will be invested by private companies, through mixed-capital commercial enterprises, with PDVSA subsidiaries.

The PDVSA is going to design a work program that will allow us to make the necessary investments to maintain and increase the industry's production capacity and at the same time spur the initiation of activities such as the exploitation of the Orinoco Belt and the production of free natural gas, the PDVSA's Arevalo Guzman Reyes stated.